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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER

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CONTRACT SCANDAL: KENT FIRM ACCUSED

Bid-rigging probe names builders

By TONY PATEY & PHIL REILLY

THE Office of Fair Trading has alleged a leading Kent builder was involved in a bid-rigging scandal.

R Durtnell & Sons Ltd, based in Westerham, is one of 112 construction companies facing allegations of rigging bids for contracts after one of the biggest-ever Competition Act investigations.

Separately, Kent County Council has confirmed the firm is one of its preferred contractors.

In the last three years it has won contracts to carry out building projects at four schools and a hotel conference centre in Kent. It is not known whether the investigation looked at these contracts.

Councillor Nick Chard, KCC's cabinet member for finance, told Kent on Sunday he awaited the OFT's report "with interest".

KoS approached the company, but was told its chairman, John Durtnell, was away on holiday and that no one else would comment. The company, which claims to be the UK's oldest builder, was founded in 1591 and has been handed down from father to son for 12 generations, according to its website.

It was named in a 'Statement of Objections' issued by the OFT.

The OFT said "no assumption should be made" at this stage that any of the companies named had broken competition law.

An OFT press release stated: "The OFT formally alleges the construction companies named have engaged in bid-rigging activities, and in particular cover pricing.

"Cover pricing describes a situation where one or more bidders collude with a competitor during a tender process to obtain a price or prices, which are intended to be too high to win the contract.

"The tendering authority, for example a

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Rolf makes a happy return to the Garden of England

See inside Review

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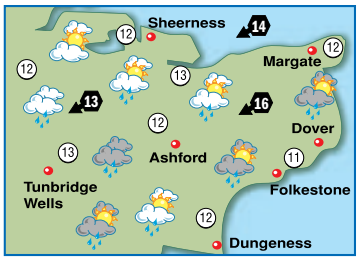
Kent today



TODAY: Cloudy with scattered showers but also some sunny spells. The showers will fall during the afternoon and may be heavy. A moderate north-easterly wind. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F). **TONIGHT:** Variable cloud and scattered showers. Moderate north-easterly winds. Min temp 7-10C (45-50F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	10	50	London	cloudy	12	54
Belfast	rain	15	59	Liverpool	rain	13	55
Birmingham	cloudy	12	54	Manchester	drizzle	12	54
B'mouth	cloudy	12	54	Newcastle	cloudy	9	48
Bristol	rain	12	54	Norwich	cloudy	12	54
Cardiff	rain	13	55	Oxford	rain	13	55
Cork	rain	11	52	Southsea	rain	14	57
Edinburgh	cloudy	10	50	S'hampton	cloudy	12	54
Glasgow	cloudy	13	55	Southport	sun	-	-
Isle of Man	cloudy	11	52	Swansea	cloudy	12	54
Leeds	drizzle	9	48	Torquay	rain	13	55

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.48am	Sunset	8.01pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	8.40pm	Moonset	5.17am	8.01pm to 5.46am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	–	–	12.05	6.3	00.18	6.5	12.37	6.4
Margate	00.50	4.6	13.16	4.5	01.24	4.5	13.45	4.4
St Mary's	05.33	5.4	17.49	5.4	06.05	5.4	18.21	5.4

Week ahead

monday Showers. max 14C min 8C

tuesday Mostly dry. max 16C min 8C

wednesday Rain later. max 16C min 9C

thursday Sunny spells. max 17C min 8C

friday Sunny spells. max 18C min 10C

saturday Sunny spells. max 18C min 10C

Police chief: cash needed to fight crime

KENT'S most senior police officer left this week's meeting with the Home Secretary "confident" that the impact of migration would be taken into account in future funding for Kent Police.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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However, the Home Office said that no new money was available at the moment to help forces cope with the influx of eastern European migrant workers into the country.

Kent Police attribute 78 per cent of the county's population growth to migration.

The constabulary said the increase between 2003-04 and 2006-07 cost an additional £34 million.

Jacqui Smith, the Home Secretary, met with senior police officers from across the country to discuss the impact of migration on policing on Thursday.

After the talks, Mike Fuller, the Chief Constable of Kent Police, said: "I was given an opportunity at the meeting to explain how Kent has seen an increase in officers' workload and policing costs because of population growth in recent years.

"We had a productive and amicable discussion. The Home Secretary listened very carefully to what I had to say and she responded positively.

"She recognised the genuine problems that Kent faces, especially as a gateway to Europe. I remain confident the Home Secretary has taken my concerns seriously and will look to take into account the impact of migration in any future funding."

Findings

Last October, Mr Fuller wrote to Ms Smith and stated that although Kent's economy had benefited from migrant workers the population growth had placed pressure on "finite resources".

He warned that without extra funding the demand would "impact negatively on performance".

A report from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) found that while migration had placed new demands on police forces there was no evidence it had generated a "large-scale crime wave".

It noted that migration from countries including Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria, had created pressure on forces in some areas and has also led to increased spending on interpreters, which can make investigations more complex.

Figures obtained from Kent Police support ACPO's findings. In 2004-05, there were 13 Polish offenders. In 2006-07, there were 122. Migrants account for only small proportion of crime, said the force.

Meanwhile, Mr Fuller publicly backed the Government's plans to extend the detention of terror suspects. He said extending the limit on holding suspects without charge from 28 to 42 days would help officers deal with the "complexities" of the cases.

The Counter Terrorism Bill is in its committee stage where it will be scrutinised by MPs after it was given an unopposed second reading in Parliament this month.

Speaking at a meeting of the Kent Police Authority, the body that oversees the work of the force, on Wednesday, Mr Fuller said terrorist investigations were highly complex and involved "very sophisticated" and "highly intelligent" suspects.

He said terror suspects often wrote in foreign languages that needed to be translated and used encrypted computers and letters to communicate between themselves.

A number of Labour backbenchers have spoken out against the proposals, including Bob Marshall-Andrews, the MP for Medway and a barrister, who said: "Some police chiefs are backing the Bill which is not in itself surprising, but that must be set against the fact that the Director of Public Prosecutions is not. The man with the clearest possible view of the wider issues thinks it is not necessary, which shows why it is wholly unnecessary."

Sir Ken Macdonald, who heads the Crown Prosecution Service, said that the 28-day limit on detaining terror suspects without charge has worked well and that the CPS's counter-terrorism unit had a 92 per cent conviction rate.

Meanwhile, funding for 10 Police Community Support Officer posts across Kent has been withdrawn by a number of local authorities. Kent Police would not name the authorities – citing "commercial sensitivity" – and said funding would instead come from the Kent Police Authority and the Home Office so there would be no reduction in the number of PCSOs.

40 companies have admitted bid rigging to OFT already

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

local council or other customer, is not made aware of the contacts between bidders, leaving it with a false impression of the level of competition and this may result in it paying inflated prices."

The vast majority of the firms named are based in the Midlands and the North East, with some in Hertfordshire and at least one in London.

However, they include firms with offices and operations in Kent, such as Apollo Property Services, Balfour Beatty Construction, Kier Regional, Morgan Ashurst, and Willmott Dixon.

The OFT would not say where the alleged bid rigging took place or whether it involved Kent contracts.

The OFT added: "In addition, the statement formally alleges that a minority of the construction companies have variously entered into one or more arrangements whereby it was agreed that the successful tenderer would pay an agreed sum of money to the unsuccessful tenderer (known as a 'compensation payment').

"These more serious forms of bid rigging are usually facilitated by false invoices."

Anti-competitive

It said that of the 112 firms accused, 40 had already admitted some bid-rigging activities, while a further 37 had applied for leniency. The OFT said it was not prepared to identify those companies at this stage.

"Cartel activity of the type alleged harms the economy by distorting competition and keeping prices artificially high," said OFT chief executive John Fingleton.

"This investigation, together with the OFT's previous decisions in the roofing sector, will hopefully send out a strong message to the construction industry about the seriousness with which we view suspected anti-competitive behaviour.

"Businesses have no excuse for not knowing and abiding by the law."

The OFT said its investigations first started in 2004 following an initial complaint in the East Midlands.

An OFT spokesman told KoS that the firms now have the chance to make written and oral representations before the OFT decides what further steps to take.

However, in general any firm found to be a member of a cartel can be fined up to 10 per cent of its annual turnover, but penalties are reduced for those who co-operate with an investigation.

The OFT also said it had received evidence implicating "many more companies on thousands of tender processes" but had focused its investigation on 240 alleged infringements.

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Vic has good taste to back supermarket's local produce plan

By **PHIL REILLY**
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WHEN Vic Reeves was growing up in Yorkshire there were no supermarkets and all the fresh produce was delivered by a horse and cart.

The comedian, real name Jim Moir, now lives amid the farms of rural Kent, but he is keen not to forget his roots.

The former Shooting Stars host, 49, who lives with his underwear model wife Nancy Sorrell, 33, and their young twins in Charing, came to Canterbury this week to promote a pilot scheme for Asda that will see them stocking hundreds of locally-sourced products.

Economy

Mr Reeves said the cart that delivered his produce when he was a boy was run by a man named Mr Todd.

He said: "He was a sullen man and there was very little difference between him and the horse. He used to bring veg on his wagon and the children would run out to buy carrots to feed his horse. He was on to a good little earner there.

"The horse used to leave its manure on the road and the blokes used to come out with shovels and use it for their gardens."

Mr Reeves used to keep pigs and cattle himself, although he admitted he wasn't really a farmer.

He added: "I just kept them because I loved them and I had a lot of land. I thought it would be a shame not to. They weren't so much livestock as pets."

He told Kent on Sunday he wanted to support the Asda scheme because he did not "want the country to turn into America any more".

Reminded that Asda is owned by the American supermarket behemoth Wal-Mart, he added: "Maybe I shouldn't have said that. They probably won't let me do it again."

Around 300 Kent-produced products will go on sale at stores in Asda's Ashford, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Chatham and Kings Hill stores.

Mr Reeves lives next door to Douglas Wanstall, owner of producer and distributor Bank Farm, which is to act as Asda's hub for local produce. Mr Wanstall said the Asda deal would contribute to the rural economy.

He said: "It's very important to us as producers. It adds an awful lot to local rural economy. It enables us to shorten the supply chain straight from our farm. We employ 25 people and work with another 40 other businesses and we all use local businesses and services.

"The supply chain is kept very local – we are almost talking food yards rather than food miles."

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

LAUGHING IN THE AISLES: Vic Reeves (in trolley) and Douglas Wanstall at the launch of Asda's new scheme

Trio jailed for brutal killing during theft

TWO men and a teenager have been imprisoned for murder after a father-of-three was fatally assaulted outside his home in Kent.

Mark Witherall was attacked in King Edward Street in Whitstable after he disturbed burglars in January last year.

The three attackers knew Mr Witherall, 47, and were all from Whitstable.

The judge lifted reporting restrictions and named the 16-year-old defendant as Gerry Cusden, of Sydenham Street.

He was sentenced to 20 years in prison for murder and 30 months in a youth detention centre for conspiracy to burgle. The jail terms will run concurrently.

Mark Elliott, 21, unemployed of Sandpiper Road, was jailed for 23 years for murder and three and a half years for conspiracy to burgle to run concurrently.

Unemployed Curtis Delima, 19, of Regent Street, faces 20 years in prison for murder and 30 months in youth detention for conspiracy to burgle, which will run concurrently.

Mr Witherall died in hospital after being on a life support machine for 41 days.

The jury at Maidstone Crown Court returned unanimous guilty verdicts for the three after a nine-week trial, which ended on March 12 this year.

At sentencing on Friday the judge said the three used "shameful and cowardly" tactics during the trial by trying to pass the blame onto co-defendants.

"This was a shocking murder," said Detective Inspector Ian Rogerson.

"It appears that people broke into Mark's home, burgled it and viciously attacked him, leaving him seriously injured in the street.

"His family had to watch Mark die over a long period of time and this has left them devastated. I hope that now the court proceedings are over, they can begin to rebuild their lives."

Mr Witherall had two daughters aged 30 and 10 and an eight-year-old son.

Duo brush up ready for show

VIC Reeves has revealed he is to star in a new series alongside The Mighty Boosh star Noel Fielding.

He told Kent on Sunday that he and Mr Fielding met with Channel Four bosses this week to agree the series, provisionally titled Vic and Noel Go Painting.

The series will involve the two madcap comics going into the homes of celebrities to paint portraits of them.

Mr Reeves said he and Mr Fielding, who also features in Channel Four's The IT Crowd, were close friends.

He said: "We're both art school boys and we wanted to do something arty. We want to go round and paint people, like Holbein."

Hans Holbein was a 16th century Germany renaissance artist who became famous for his portraits of the court of Henry VIII.

Mr Reeves also insisted the younger star is "a huge fan of mine".

He added: "The Mighty Boosh wouldn't be there if wasn't for my shows."

OLD PALS ACT: The Mighty Boosh's Noel Fielding and Vic Reeves went to art school together

33-year-old man found dead in cell

AN inquiry has been launched after a prisoner was found hanging in his cell in a Kent jail.

Jamie Sioux, who was on remand on harassment charges, was discovered in his cell at Elmley Prison on the Isle of Sheppey at around 8am on Thursday. The 33-year-old was pronounced dead shortly after.

A prison spokesman said Mr Sioux was not on suicide watch and added: "Our sympathies are with Mr Sioux's family. As with all deaths in custody, the prisons and probation ombudsman will conduct an investigation."

Elmley prison opened in 1992 and includes a category C unit which holds 240 prisoners. It also contains vulnerable prisoner and drug rehabilitation units and has a capacity of 985 prisoners.

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Racquet ace aiming for World Transplant Games says more donors are needed

FIT AS A FIDDLE: Kidney transplant recipient Paul German aims to compete in next year's World Transplant Games

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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'They said new kidney would fail in five years, but here I am 35 years later'

BADMINTON champion Paul German has travelled the world and won medals for his country playing the sport.

But without a kidney transplant as a teenager he would not be alive – let alone taking part in an energetic sport at a competitive level.

Mr German, who lives on the Isle of Sheppey, has played in the World Transplant Games seven times and in Thailand last year won a silver medal in the singles and doubles.

He joined competitors who had also received life-saving organ transplants including heart, liver, lung and bone marrow at the annual Transplant Sports UK racquets tournament in Bracknell, Berkshire, earlier this month.

Dialysis

"I was 17 when my kidneys started to fail. I ended up on dialysis at Canterbury hospital," he said.

"My parents volunteered to donate a kidney and my dad was the best match. That was 35 years ago this year.

"I had a transplant and my dad, at 80, is still doing fine with one kidney.

"I'm 53 now and have three kids, five grandchildren and none of that would have happened without the transplant."

Mr German stands a good chance of being selected for the world games next year on Australia's Gold Coast, when he competes in the British Games in Sheffield on August 7.

Transplant recipient finalists from sports including athletics, rackets sports, swimming and golf, will compete at the games in the south Yorkshire city.

Transplant Sport UK is a charity founded after the first Transplant Olympics in 1978. It aims to raise awareness through showing the benefits of organ donation by proving you can lead a normal and active life.

Mr German, who works for a car dealership in Maidstone, said there was a mixed range of abilities at the British games.

He said: "It is a victory just being there and taking part – running 100 metres after being so ill – it doesn't matter if you come last."

Mr German said there is a shortage of donors in this country. There are 8,000 people on the transplant list and 400 die each year while waiting for the life-saving operation.

"The sister on the ward said before my operation 'you realise this [kidney] will probably last five years at the most'.

"Even that seemed better than being on dialysis and 35 years later I'm still going strong.

"The average now is more than 10 years and they have much better drugs to treat rejection, which is the major problem," he said.

He described the teams as a big family. He met his wife Judith on the way to the world games in Japan in 2001. She was there to support her sister, who had received a liver transplant and was on the British team.

Mr German urged people to sign the donor register: "I know surveys have shown people are willing but don't make the effort to sign up or carry the card.

"People must let their next of kin know, even if they have signed, because doctors have to ask permission of the next of kin [before the organs can be used]."

• ***To register or for more information go to www.uktransplant.org.uk or call the Organ Donor Line on 0845 6060 400.***

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Men convicted of disturbing Dave

TWO men have been given 120 hours of community service each for "recklessly disturbing" Dave the dolphin.

Michael Jukes, 27, of Castle Avenue, Folkestone, and Daniel Buck, 26, of Church Road, Folkestone, were on Thursday found guilty of recklessly disturbing a wild animal.

They were each ordered to pay £350 costs by Dover Magistrates' Court.

The landmark case has now made it illegal to swim with wild dolphins in the UK.

Mark Simmonds, director of science for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and an expert witness in the case, said: "The outcome of the case shows that you cannot simply mess around with wild dolphins.

"Although, it has also illustrated how very difficult it is to make the existing law work to protect dolphins. We are dealing with law that is mainly aimed at terrestrial and less sophisticated species."

Jukes and Buck were prosecuted under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Dave, a female bottlenose dolphin, was a much-loved regular fixture in the water off the coast at Sandgate but last autumn disappeared while seriously wounded.

Mr Simmonds added: "This was something that we had feared would happen from the time that she first appeared and when she began to associate with people."

Folkestone Magistrates' Court, which heard the case, was told how the men swam with Dave during June last year after a night out at a party where they had been drinking heavily. Residents in Sandgate called police to complain about the noise and the men were arrested.

WILDLIFE: Dave the dolphin disappeared from waters off Sandgate last autumn

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...the amount of unpaid council tax written off in Kent last year

By PHIL REILLY
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

LOCAL authorities in Kent, Medway, Bromley and Bexley wrote off more than £5 million in unpaid council tax last year, according to the Government.

Figures released by the Communities and Local Government department show that district and borough councils wrote off a total of £5.063m of council tax in 2006-07.

This is largely because they were unable to track down those that had not paid.

The highest amount written off by a single authority was by Thanet District Council – £870,000. However, the council has disputed this figure, claiming it had only written off £123,000.

The lowest amount was by Ashford Borough Council, which wrote off just £4,000.

The council said this represented money that it had deemed unrecoverable, although there was a further £112,000 outstanding that "could potentially be recovered in the future".

Matthew Elliott, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, described the total figure as "a shocking black hole that law-abiding taxpayers would have to pay for".

He said: "It seems that far too much of the money being spent on enforcement is being wasted. Councils seem keen to pick on easy targets, like the pensioners who are increasingly being sent to jail for petty sums, while letting a hard core of serious offenders get away with it."

Mr Elliott said there was a "stark contrast" between councils that were collecting the tax properly and those that were not.

He added: "The failures should learn urgently from councils who are more successful."

Other councils that wrote off vast sums include Bromley (£747,000), Gravesham (£743,000) and Bexley (£603,000).

Cllr Martin Wise, Thanet District Council's cabinet member for finance, improvement and customer services, admitted the £123,000 it acknowledged writing off was "still a significant amount of money".

He said: "We have procedures in place to ensure that debts are only written off as a last resort and after every avenue open to collect them has been explored.

"The vast majority of this is as a result of council tax payers absconding (usually from rented accommodation) and we have been unable to trace them. This is a particular problem in Thanet due to the high transience of our population."

Cllr Paul Bartlett, from Ashford Borough Council, said the figures were a result of a questionnaire sent to councils from the Government.

He claimed that some councils may have interpreted the questions differently.

He added: "Some are including all write-offs while others including only irrecoverable write-offs. In view of these figures we may now interpret the question differently in future."

A spokeswoman for Communities and Local Government said: "It is the responsibility of local councils to collect council tax and they work hard to ensure that collection rates are as high as possible as can be seen by the record level of nearly 97 per cent council tax collected in 2006-07."

AUTHORITIES MISSING CASH (£000s)

ASHFORD – 4	DOVER – 71	SHEPWAY – 145
BEXLEY – 603	GRAVESHAM – 743	SWALE – 414
BROMLEY – 747	MAIDSTONE – 148	THANET – 870
CANTERBURY – 183	MEDWAY – 278	TONBRIDGE & MALLING – 84
DARTFORD – 410	SEVENOAKS – 270	TUNBRIDGE WELLS – 93

Cameron letter shows KCC could end up at loggerheads with a Tory government

RESIDENTS will be able to veto steep council tax rises under a Conservative government, an aide to leader David Cameron has revealed.

The plan could potentially put Tory-run Kent County Council at odds with a Conservative government if it proposed a tax hike similar to the 2007-08 inflation-busting rise of nearly five per cent.

Edward Young, who works for Mr Cameron, explained the proposal in a letter to Kent man Edward Gibbens.

Mr Gibbens, from Greatstone, had written to Mr Cameron to ask about Tory plans for council tax and pensions.

Mr Young said Mr Cameron would require councils that want to introduce high council tax rises to submit their plans to a local referendum.

He wrote: "Under our plans, councils would have to explain to taxpayers why they want to raise taxes by so much and must show what they would do – a shadow budget – in the event of their plans being rejected.

"Council tax referendum ballots would be sent out with the annual council tax bill – and if people voted against the rise, a rebate would be credited to the next year's bill."

He also said the Conservatives would give councils more "freedom and discretion" and relieve them of "unfunded burdens" and "red tape".

A party spokesman told Kent on Sunday that what would constitute a high council tax rise would "depend on the situation at the time".

Mr Gibbens was unhappy with his reply as it did not address the issue of pensions and has written again to Mr Young.

Families want 'proper' apology for C diff deaths

THE families of patients who died in superbug outbreaks at west Kent hospitals say they want an apology from the NHS trust at the centre of the scandal.

Sarah Harman, a solicitor representing more than 20 relatives of people who died from Clostridium difficile at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust hospitals, said her clients had been offered compensation but want "proper" apologies.

However, the trust said it had apologised to all relatives and patients following the publication of the Healthcare Commission's report into the outbreaks last October.

The superbug outbreaks led to the deaths of 90 patients – with poor infection control and hygiene standards blamed in the watchdog's damning report.

The trust said its chief executive Glenn Douglas had offered to meet patients' relatives to talk about what happened and "express our regret". A spokesman said: "The trust takes the HC report and patients' and relatives' views extremely seriously. There has been significant progress made in improving infection control. For example in March the trust announced had it had cut cases of C diff by 35 per cent in the previous 12 months and more than halved the cases of MRSA from 2003-04 to 2007-08."

• *See our campaign, page 24*

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SHARPEN UP: PM Gordon Brown

Labour vows to beat poor opinion poll results in the local elections

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

LOCAL Labour leaders have reacted bullishly to suggestions that Gordon Brown's plummeting poll ratings could hit them in the ballot box at the local elections next month.

There are council elections in Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells on May 1.

Recent opinion polls have shown Labour trailing the Conservatives by as much as 16 per cent, with just 28 per cent backing the Government in a YouGov poll earlier this month.

The Prime Minister has come under repeated attack for his handling of the economy in the wake of the Northern Rock fiasco, the credit crunch and the downturn in the housing market.

Even Alistair Darling, his beleaguered Chancellor of the Exchequer, admitted this week the Government needs to "sharpen up" and give a clear message to voters.

All three Kent councils facing elections are Tory-led authorities, with the Conservatives dominating Maidstone and Swale.

Tunbridge Wells is much closer, although this is between the Tories and the Liberal Democrats as Labour does not currently occupy a single seat and is only contesting three of the 16 up for grabs on May 1.

In Maidstone, where Labour are defending three seats and are hoping to improve their numbers on the council, local party leader Cllr Morel D'Souza said issues about the Government's handling of the economy were not being raised on the doorstep.

Doorstep

He said: "What's going on with subprime mortgages has been imported from the States – it hasn't had a great impact in this country.

"House prices have fallen by about five per cent, I heard this morning, and they were over-inflated anyway.

"Within the party we've discussed the abolition of the 10p tax rate and how it will affect some of our people without children, but I think Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling are looking at that and something may come soon."

Cllr De Souza said he was confident of the party's chances on May 1 and insisted "we our fighting on our record".

He added: "I think [the electorate] will look at local issues because quality of life is affected by issues such as traffic, pavements, waste collection and recycling."

In Swale, Labour leader Angela Harrison is also hoping to successfully defend three seats.

She said she was not particularly concerned about the opinion polls and accused the media of a campaign against Gordon Brown.

She said: "We're not doing that badly. Banks and building societies in this country were handing out money like confetti and now there's a credit crunch people see it as a crisis.

"There's a limit to what the Government can do.

"If you talk to people on the doorstep, a lot of pensioners said to me 'we've never had it so good'. The weekly fuel allowance was at £10 in 1997 and £200 now."

Cllr Harrison said it was local issues that would decide the election, with antisocial behaviour at the top of people's concerns.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Scaredy cats opt for text

KENT is a county of cowards according to a new report that shows large numbers of people using email and text messages to get themselves out of sticky situations.

The Post Office Telecoms report shows that 82 per cent of people delegate difficult tasks at work by text or email, while nine per cent use them to resign from their jobs.

Nearly half of all Kent workers surveyed admitted to using digital technology to apologise for mistakes, while four per cent use it for hiring and firing.

Across the country, three per cent of adults surveyed also admitted to using it to dump their partners.

Sports centre's revamp

NEW state-of-the-art equipment is to be unveiled at a sports centre in Folkestone next week.

A new toboggan slope and B-Fit Junior Gym, the first of their kind in Kent, have been installed at the Folkestone Sports Centre in Radnor Park Avenue.

The first people to use them will be children from nearby Harcourt and Castle Hill schools, who helped raise funds for the equipment.

Tessa Stickler, manager of the centre, described it as the "beginning of the regeneration of our community sports centre". The equipment will be unveiled this Saturday.

A NEW multi-million pound library and history centre is being built in Maidstone. The Kent Library and History Centre, being built on the corner of James Whatman Way and Royal Engineers Road, will store one of the biggest county archives in the country, as well as letters from novelist Jane Austen and Lord Nelson.

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Police hunt for 'Dangerous Dan'

A BASE jumper has parachuted more than 100ft off a railway bridge in Kent used by high-speed Eurostar trains.

The man, who calls himself Dangerous Dan, has been condemned by police and rail bosses for his "highly dangerous" jump off the Channel Tunnel Rail Link bridge in Rochester on Wednesday.

Officers are looking at CCTV footage in the hope of identifying him, and he could face charges for trespassing on the railway bridge.

Base – which stands for building, antenna, span and earth – jumping involves using a parachute to jump from fixed objects.

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Councillors told to

EXCLUSIVE

By **JAMIE McGINNES**

THE chief executive of Kent County Council has ordered all councillors to urgently report back with details of their outside interests – after pressure from KOS Media.

We requested details of directorships held by all 84 councillors after it emerged Tory county councillor Mike Snelling spoke during a debate about the council's controversial commercial activities – without declaring he was a non-executive director of one of KCC's trading companies.

Although the county council initially said that providing the details would not be a problem they later attempted to treat it as a Freedom of Information request – even though the details should be freely available to the public as part of the register of members' interests.

In the end, our reporter went to County Hall to inspect the register and an official presented him with the records, in two volumes.

The most recent 'Declaration of Related Party Transactions' forms on file for KCC's cabinet members, as well as those for Cllr Snelling and the Opposition leaders, were dated 2004.

The forms are to record details of any contracts or transactions that could present a potential conflict of interest.

A letter from KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy sent to all councillors earlier this month – and leaked to us this week – reveals his concern that the register "could be inaccurate".

He wrote: "Following the failure of a member to make a declaration of interest at the county council meeting on April 3 and a subsequent press inquiry, I have checked with the relevant officer and it appears that the information contained in the register of members' interests appears not to be current and could therefore be inaccurate.

"I must remind members that upon being elected they signed an undertaking to comply with the code of member conduct… which requires any interests to be registered. Members also have a responsibility to inform the monitoring officer as soon as any change in their circumstances takes place."

An internal KCC email sent on Friday said our reporter had only been provided with two of three volumes of records. The email said: "All records are now stored together and none are missing."

Cllr Trudy Dean, leader of the Liberal Democrats on KCC, said: "I think if the county council was trying to portray itself as incompetent, unaccountable, defensive and secretive on this issue it couldn't have done a better job."

And Cllr Mike Eddy, leader of the Labour group, said: "The air of confusion and secrecy around the register does nobody any good and just adds to air of unaccountability and arrogance that surrounds KCC these days.

"Keeping up-to-date registers of members' and officers' interests is basic good governance yet KCC doesn't seem able to do it."

A KCC spokeswoman said this week that Cllr Snelling was not paid to be a non-execu-

KCC's 'superdepot' plans abandoned

THE Campaign to Protect Rural England has said it is "extremely relieved" after the county council scrapped plans for lorry 'superdepot' in a Kent village.

KCC was planning to put its West Kent Highways Depot in the village of Wrotham but has now backed down.

The countryside campaigners claim this is because they applied for a judicial review of the decision, although KCC said the decision followed advice from an independent consultant.

It would have been built on a partially greenfield site that lies within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It would have included an office building, a 14-metre high salt store and space for lorry parking.

Planning permission was granted in February 2007, but the CPRE applied to the High Court for a judicial review last summer.

Dr Hilary Newport, director of the Kent CPRE, said it applied for the review because "it was vital for the protection of our countryside".

She said: "Building the Wrotham superdepot would have set a terrible precedent for development in protected landscapes.

"We regret so much time and money should have been spent in reversing the decision, but a lorry depot and salt store on this site would have been directly contrary to the council's own stated policies for protecting Kent's countryside."

The KCC spokesman said it had not been easy to find a suitable location for the depot.

He said: "KCC asked for independent advice from a planning consultant looking into whether the Wrotham location would be suitable.

"After considering the consultant's findings, KCC is no longer pursuing this particular option. Alternative sites are now being looked at."

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declare business links

County Hall is 'controlling the means of production'

BUSINESSMEN and women in Kent are stepping up their campaign against the growing commercial activities of Kent County Council, with David Foley, the chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, using the c-word – communism.

In his weekly business bulletin he asked: "Is Kent County Council getting above itself? Are we seeing communism in Kent with the effective centralised control of the means of production? Some companies in Kent evidently think so.

"KCC's move to compete with the private sector is of growing concern to many Kent-based businesses. They claim that they are faced with direct competition from KCC which is allegedly competing and winning contracts for (a range of) services."

Jack Parkinson, chief of Ashford-based HR GO, has intensified his campaign against KCC's commercial activities by sending letters to all councilors saying: "Either you are not aware of what's going on at Commercial Services, or you are actively supporting a crazy scenario whereby private enterprise in the county is being forced to lose business, turnover and jobs.

"On behalf of the Kent Business Lobby – KCC Hands Off Business (HOB), available on www.kcc-hands-off.co.uk – we would recommend you take seriously our concerns."

The 'ginger' group was set up after a meeting between KCC delegates and companies and organisations at East Malling on February 13 where both sides presented their points of view. There was no agreement.

However, observers hoped KCC would begin to take stock about the extent to which it was going towards commercialisation and the rate at which it was expanding into various commercial fields. There does not seem to be any movement on that.

Angry businesspeople claim KCC is muscling in on bus and coach transport, recruitment, minicab hire, printing and graphic design, stationery and office supplies, landscaping and grounds maintenance, vehicle maintenance and MOT testing.

RESPONSIBILITY: Cllr Mike Snelling (left) and KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy are involved in the row

tive director of Kent Top Travel.

KCC also released a memo to KOS Media called Recognising Formal Request For Information, which explains to councillors and members how to deal with requests for information.

Controversy

According to the guidance, if they think the subject matter of a request is "controversial" they must refer it to their 'directorate co-ordinator' to decide if some or all of the information should be withheld.

Commenting on the note, Cllr Eddy said: "I can understand withholding information because it is personal or because it is commercially sensitive, but to withhold information because it is controversial is just the kind of thing the Freedom of Information Act was supposed to put a stop to. The media report controversy. Is KCC's Conservative administration really saying 'the media can only talk about what we allow them to talk about'? I sincerely hope not."

Meanwhile, a fifth FOI request by this newspaper about KCC's commercial services department has been rejected. After exceeding the 20-day limit for answering FOI inquiries, KCC eventually responded to the request for details of contracts won by the department – by turning it down. They said it would take too long to compile.

A spokeswoman for KCC said: "Peter Gilroy reminded members in his letter of April 9 to return any updates for the register and [on Friday] morning we now have a majority of members' forms returned to us."

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Health workers win care awards

HEALTHCARE professionals, social care workers, hospital volunteers, teams and services across Kent have won accolades at an awards ceremony.

NHS South East Coast, the Strategic Health Authority for Kent, Surrey and Sussex, held its annual Best of Health and Health and Social Care awards on Wednesday in Brighton.

TV personality Claudia Winkleman and Candy Morris, the SHA's chief executive, presented the awards which celebrate the hard work of local doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers.

The county's winners included the Sense team for the 'dignity in care' award.

The residential home in Ramsgate cares for four young adults with severe disabilities.

Residents are supported 24-hours-a-day but are also given the chance to live full and independent lives and encouraged to mix with the community.

The purpose-built house has been designed with lighting that suits the needs of visually impaired people and all the bedrooms have wheelchair access and en suite rooms.

Macmillan nurses from Medway Maritime Hospital work with palliative care nurses at Wisdom Hospice in Rochester to help patients, many of whom have only a few months to live.

The team won the improving health and reducing inequalities award.

The nurses have set up a support group for patients newly diagnosed with the lung cancer mesothelioma after they said their condition left them feeling isolated, vulnerable and stigmatised.

Ms Morris said: "Staff working in the NHS and social care across our region are passionate about the work they do – providing the best possible care to our patients and service users."

Winners will go on to compete in the national Health and Social Care Awards in July.

Picture: PA/DAVID PARRY

ARTISTS: Rachel Whiteread, Mark Wallinger, Christopher Le Brun and Richard Deacon are all on the Ebbsfleet shortlist

Artists to reveal 'Angels'

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THE five big-name artists shortlisted to design a giant 'Angel of the South' sculpture at Ebbsfleet International Station will unveil their designs next month.

Eurostar, Channel Tunnel operator London and Continental Railways and property developers Land Securities are to commission a £2 million sculpture they hope will rival the Angel of the North as a regional landmark.

The artwork, which could be as tall as 150 feet and be seen from 20 miles away, will stand atop the Ebbsfleet Valley.

Five internationally renowned artists have been chosen to submit designs for the sculpture.

They are: recent Turner Prize winner Mark Wallinger, French conceptual artist Daniel Buren and British sculptors Christopher Le Brun, Richard Deacon and Rachel Whiteread CBE.

Mr Wallinger won the 2007 prize for his work State Britain, a precise reconstruction of anti-war protestor Brian Haw's display that stood in Parliament Square before being taken down by police last year.

He is also one of 23 artists who will be contributing a public artwork to the Folkestone Triennial, a cultural event to take place in the coastal town later this year.

Ms Whiteread became the first woman to win the Turner Prize in 1993 for her work House, a concrete cast of the inside of an entire Victorian terraced house.

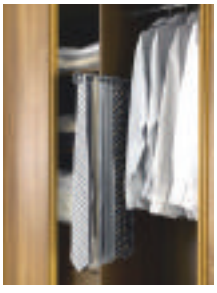
The designs are to be unveiled at the Observatory in the Ebbsfleet Valley on Wednesday, May 7.

No local artists were invited to submit designs, but KOS Media has been asking readers to send in their proposals.

Designs received so far have included tongue-in-cheek entries like Phonehenge by Hamish Pringle, a replica of Stonehenge made of giant mobile phones, and The Developer of the South by Ron Kipps, a statue of a giant property developer.

Other entries included a Eurostar train emerging from an oasthouse cowl by Brian Cowles and the Kentish Horse by Monty Parkin.

It is intended the sculpture will be built in time for the 2012 Olympics.



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Brown salutes ex-mayor who died after 81 years in party

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Prime Minister has paid tribute to a former county councillor who died this week.

Charles Young, known as Charlie, died at the age of 95 on Monday after a long battle with illness.

Mr Young, who served on both Kent County Council and Thanet District Council, joined the Labour Party as an electrician's apprentice at the age of 14 and remained a member of the party until his death.

Gordon Brown said Mr Young had an "outstanding record of service" to his country, his community and his party.

He said: "I am proud that our country has citizens like Charles Young. He will be much missed by his friends and colleagues in the local Labour Party and the wider community."

A Labour spokeswoman was unable to say if his 81 years of membership made him the longest-serving member of the party, but said he was "one of the longest serving".

Mr Young was in the RAF during World War Two and was given the Military Medal for bravery after he was injured during the Dunkirk evacuations.

He was left in a coma for six days and was blinded for more than a year.

As well as his council roles he was also Mayor of Margate four times and was involved in a wide range of charity and community work.

Mr Young was also personal friends with Tony and Cherie Blair, having helped the latter with her unsuccessful campaign to be MP for North Thanet in 1983.

Cllr Iris Johnston, a close friend and his former election agent, said he was loved by people of all political stripes.

She said: "Everybody greeted him with great affection. I told the Conservative members on Tuesday night and one of the ladies virtually burst out in tears. That's very unusual."

Tributes were also paid by Labour colleagues Cllrs Clive Hart and Richard Nicholson.

Cheery

Cllr Hart said: "He really was a lovely man who had the sharpest political mind right to the end.

"I was pleased and very proud indeed to have him as a personal friend."

Cllr Nicholson added: "As a person I will miss him but I hold dear the memories of working alongside Charlie and his cheery disposition."

His funeral is to take place at St John's Church in Margate on May 1 at 1.30pm. Dr Stephen Ladyman, MP for South Thanet and a vice-chairman of the Labour Party, will be speaking at the service.

Mr Young was married to Rose, who died in 1998, and had two daughters; Wendy and Pat.

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MISSED: Charles Young with his Labour Party long-service award

Pupils set for war of words

GRAMMAR school pupils from across the county are sharpening their arguments ahead of a regional debating competition on Monday.

Teams from Barton Court in Canterbury; Harvey Grammar in Folkestone; Queen Elizabeth's in Faversham; and Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School will be competing at Canterbury Christ Church University.

It is the South East regional final of the Institute of Ideas and Pfizer Debating Matters contest, with the winners going on to the national final.

They will be judged by an expert panel including Professor John Dean, head of Christ Church's education faculty and Prof Frank Furedi, a leading social policy expert from the University of Kent.

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Government's boost to council

MAIDSTONE Borough Council has been given a £1.8 million boost by the Government.

The area has been designated as a 'growth point' and the council is to bid for up to £50m by 2017. The designation means the council has the right to bid for millions of pounds to be spent on regeneration schemes and infrastructure improvements.

It initially bid for just £1.8m, but is also hoping to receive a further £5m by 2010.

The grant is to be used towards the purchase of a new works depot, traffic flow improvements and new play areas, a tennis court refurbishment and a teen shelter at South Park.

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Gravesend actress lets slip in interview filming honeymoon

Is Gemma about to become the new Mrs Bond?

NATURAL BEAUTY: Gemma

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THESE are the first pictures of Kent girl Gemma Arterton in her new role as a secret agent in the new James Bond film.

Miss Arterton, 22, from Gravesend, will be starring as Agent Fields alongside Daniel Craig in the forthcoming blockbuster Quantum of Solace.

The stills, released by Sony Pictures, are taken from shoots at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire and on location in Panama.

Little is known about Miss Arterton's role, although in an interview on American TV she did hint that her character may marry 007.

She mentioned she had filmed scenes with Mr Craig in a honeymoon suite before quickly adding, "I think I've said too much".

Ms Arterton was born and raised in Gravesend and went to Gravesend Grammar School for Girls before heading to top stage school Rada.

She graduated a year ago and became hot property after her performance as Rosaline in Love's Labours Lost at the Globe Theatre.

She has since hit the big screen as head girl Kelly in the remake of St Trinian's and in British comedy Three and Out, and is due to take the lead role in a new TV adaptation of Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles.

It is unlikely she will get Bond all to herself in the new film as she is vying for screen time with Olga Kurylenko, a former model from Ukraine.

The film is directed by Marc Foster, whose previous work includes award-winning films Monster's Ball and Finding Neverland.

It also stars Dame Judi Dench, reprising her role as M, French actor Mathieu Amalric and American Jeffrey Wright, who is understood to be playing Colin Powell in Oliver Stone's upcoming George W Bush biopic, W.

Quantum of Solace is due to hit cinema screens across the country in November.

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suite scene in new 007 film sparking rumours of top secret agent tying the knot

Pictures: SONY PICTURES

THRILLS AND SPILLS: Gemma (far right) stars as Agent Fields alongside Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko (above) and Dame Judi Dench in the new James Bond film

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GO BEYOND

Blackwall tunnels are 'among most dangerous in Europe'

FEARS have been raised over serious fire safety flaws at the Blackwall Tunnel in London.

A study by two motoring organisations found the busy two tunnels, which are used by 100,000 vehicles a day, are among the most dangerous in Europe.

The investigation by safety inspectors from the AA and ADAC, a German motoring group, rated the tunnels under the Thames as "very poor".

Safety at the Dartford tunnel in Kent, which is used by 75,000 drivers a day, was rated "acceptable" although inspectors criticised the lack of emergency lanes, loudspeakers for alerting people and SOS phones.

Talking about the problems at the Blackwall tunnels, John Dawson, the AA's policy director, said: "We are not questioning management of the tunnels but we take issue with the risk to motorists in the event of a fire."

Transport for London, which runs the Blackwall tunnels, said the southbound tunnel was due for a major revamp and that the safety of the northbound tunnel would be reviewed.

The AA said of the southbound tunnel: "It was the scene of a fire last year, yet no fire extinguishers were found on site.

"Inspectors praised day-to-day management, noting well-equipped fire brigades, good video surveillance and strict rules on vehicles carrying hazardous materials."

Out of 30 tunnels across Europe the northbound stretch of the Blackwall was second worse and the southbound tunnel was third.

Maoist victory poses threat to Gurkha future

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

THE RECRUITMENT of Gurkhas by the British Army is likely to be frozen by a communist party sweeping to power in Nepal.

The fighters, who have close links with Kent, have been enlisted into the Army from the Himalayan nation for nearly 200 years.

However, Nepal's Maoist party, which now looks set to take control, has indicated its aim to stop Britain's recruitment of the troops.

And it is unclear what will happen to Gurkhas currently serving in the Army.

Adam Holloway, Tory MP for Gravesham, has just returned from acting as an election advisor in Nepal. The former soldier told KOS Media he believed the Maoists were likely to end the UK's recruitment of Gurkhas.

"They are bound to renege on some of the more whacky economics, so stopping 'foreign mercenary recruitment' is an easy hit to stay with their principles," he said.

But Mr Holloway added: "I doubt they will be re-elected, so this will only be for one parliamentary term I would have thought."

Prince Harry recently praised Gurkhas he served alongside in Afghanistan.

The 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles has its garrison in Brunei, whereas the 2nd Battalion is stationed at Folkestone's Shorncliffe Barracks.

Brigadier Iain James, Commanding Officer of 2 (South East) Brigade, is responsible for both units. He is based at Shorncliffe Barracks.

There are another 200 Gurkhas at Maidstone in The Queen's Gurkhas Engineers, part of 36 Engineer Regiment.

Former Gurkhas protested outside Parliament last month, calling for better pension and citizenship rights.

Cllr Dhan Gurung, a former Gurkha, is a Lib Dem councillor on Folkestone Town Council. He fears the worst for the future of the Brigade of Gurkhas, the collective name for soldiers recruited from Nepal by the British Army.

He said: "The Maoists have already said if they win, they don't want anyone leaving the country and that includes the Gurkhas.

WORRIED: Former Gurkha Cllr Dhan Gurung

"The Gurkhas in Kent are extremely worried about what is going to happen to them."

The full results of elections in Nepal are still a few weeks away, but the Maoists look certain to take power.

Chantra Rai, general secretary of the British Gurkha Welfare Society, said he was concerned about the polls.

He said: "This election result has come as a big shock to many people now worried what is to become of Nepal.

"I am quietly confident it will not become a hard-line Maoist government running a 100 per cent communist state with closed borders.

"That would be a disaster for the country because we rely very heavily on foreign aid."

He added: "I know the Gurkhas in Kent will be very concerned, but we all need to wait to see what the Maoists plan to do."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "We have no indication that the recruitment of Gurkhas would be affected by a change of government in Nepal."

On Thursday, Maoist leader Prachanda – the 'fierce one' (real name Pushapa Kamal Dhahal) set a 30-day deadline for the abolition of Nepal's ancient Hindu monarchy.

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WAY OF LIFE: Wrotham is the worst hit village in the country

Death by a thousand cuts for country life

By **KEVIN O'SULLIVAN**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A VILLAGE singled out as having suffered the most cuts in local services in the country was once a thriving centre of rural life, residents said this week.

Wrotham, near Tonbridge, has just 300 villagers but only one shop after consecutive years of swingeing cuts to vital amenities.

Two years ago the post office closed its cash register for the last time – forcing pensioners to make a 20-minute trek to neighbouring Borough Green.

And in the last decade the village has lost two banks, two greengrocers, two butchers and a bakery.

It is these slashes to services which have put Wrotham at the bottom of the pile of villages stripped of their heart – a new Government report reveals.

The Communities and Local Government department report looked into deprivation in rural areas between 2004 and 2007. Wrotham saw the biggest decline in services.

Barmaid Tina Hitchcock, 35, works at the George and Dragon in the centre of the village.

She said: "It's hardly a surprise – I've lived here for 20 years and in just that space of time we have so many businesses move out.

"Now we have to travel 20 minutes if we need anything. It's okay for the younger people but for the elderly it is a real ordeal.

"When the post office closed it made life very difficult for everyone."

College lecturer Graham Davison, 60, said local parish councillors were fighting a losing battle against government policymakers.

He said: "There has been quite an organised resistance to all the cuts but sadly those concerns are not being listened to.

"The last four years have been particularly bad."

Despite its setbacks the traditional village has a proud heritage.

It boasts the first-ever recorded century at Wrotham's cricket ground and proudly claims to have the first church officially to be named after England's patron saint St George.

Mrs Hitchcock added: "It is a lovely old place with a lot of charm and character.

"The Queen used to come here quite often as one of her close friends lived just outside the village. It used to be very hush hush, though."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

CAB to the boozer

STAFF at a Citizens Advice Bureau in Kent will soon be doling out advice in a local pub.

In a bid to reach people who are unable to get to the CAB office in Ashford, staff will be holding weekly sessions in the Walnut Tree pub in Aldington.

The sessions will be held every Wednesday afternoon.

Pub licensee Karen Barrett said: "Some villagers find it difficult to get into Ashford so the CAB approached us about becoming a venue where people could have a one-to-one chat about their problems."

CAB is a charity that offers advice on a wide range of issues, including debt and employment.

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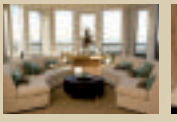
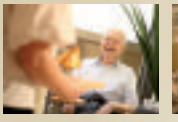

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Metropole Hotel	3* Hotel	St Helier	N/A	£455	£465	£495	£515
Hampshire Hotel	3* Hotel	St Helier	£369	£455	£465	£495	£515
Runnymede Court	2* Hotel	StHelier	£299	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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How you can help us to help you

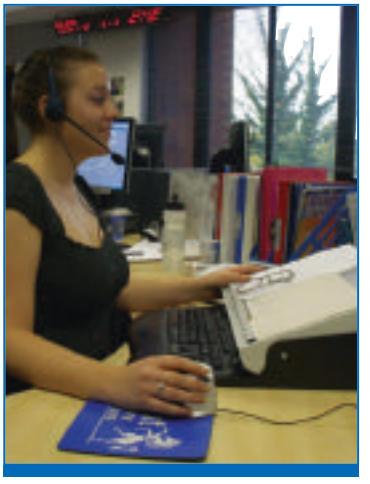
At Kent Highway Services, we carry out regular inspections of the roads and pavements across our county, but we can't be everywhere all the time, which is why we need your help.

If you spot a problem on the roads, you can tell us about it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by calling our Contact Centre on **08458 247 800**. You can also report it online at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways** or email us at **kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk**

When you contact us, it would help if you can give us as much information as possible about the problem and its location.

In particular, please tell us the following when reporting any fault:

- A clear location including road name, town, postcode (if available) and a location description as to where on the road or pavement the fault can be found (e.g. near a house number or shop name).
- If reporting an issue with a streetlight, please provide the column number which can be found stencilled on the side of every lamp post (just above head-height)....or perhaps a house number that the light is outside/opposite...or give us a description of the location.
- If reporting a pothole, details of its location are very important for us to find it. Please advise the road name and indicate the approximate size and location on the road – is it in the middle of the carriageway, how far from a junction etc.
- If reporting a problem with a tree affecting the highway, please try to tell us if it's from privately-owned property (and provide the address of the tree owner if known)... or a tree that is growing alongside the highway. The approximate thickness and length of a broken tree/branch will be helpful too.



If you want to know more about how we deal with the issues you report to us, we have a series of leaflets that explain our services. The leaflets include information on how we deal with streetlights, trees, potholes and traffic calming. You can request copies by calling **08458 247 800** or find them in main libraries and some district and borough council offices.

With your help, we can keep Kent moving!

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Signing the way to success

At Kent Highway Services, we've recently looked at the way we're structured to improve the way we work. As part of this, a new group has been established to look after non-illuminated signs and road bollards, road markings including white lines, arrows, text and cats eyes, and safety barriers. The purpose of the group is to keep Kent moving by giving all road users the information they need to move safely around the highway network.

One of the first tasks being carried out is a review of the policy on signing, road markings and safety barriers to make sure that we take a consistent approach across the county.

We're also looking into ways to make reporting defects and faults easier by mapping where all the signs, road markings and safety barriers are, so we can deal with any problems more efficiently.

This group will be responsible for looking at the way we implement new and replacement signs, barriers and road markings too, to make sure that we're being as efficient as possible and providing the best possible service to you.

You can find out more about the way we work by visiting our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways** or by contacting us on **08458 247 800.**

Have you seen a pothole?

If so, please report it to Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800

Working smarter to deliver results

You might not immediately associate new technology and innovation with Kent Highway Services, but did you know that we are always looking for ways to make the way we work more efficient?

We are always keen to use new technology and innovation to achieve this, whether it's using new equipment on site, advanced technology in the office or new processes.

For example, we used a three-sided roller for the first time in Kent to compact material on a very difficult landfill site in Gravesend that was being used for a major road scheme.

In the office, we use innovative transportation modelling techniques called VISUM and VISSIM that have allowed us to identify and model new schemes for the future.

We've also reviewed the way we work and, as a result, at this time of year, we are increasing the number of pothole repair gangs to deal with the increasing number of potholes caused by the recent wet weather.

By using new techniques and reviewing our methods of working, we have been able to identify £10 million of savings in the last two years and are aiming to save another £7 million over the next eight years.

You can find out more about the way we work by visiting our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways** or by contacting us on **08458 247 800.**

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

	Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Gravesend	current	24.4.08	Dashwood Road, Gravesend	Road closure - carriageway works
Shepway	current	25.4.08	Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate	Temporary traffic lights - new water mains
Thanet	current	27.8.08	Fort Hill, Margate	Road Closure - carriage works
Tunbridge Wells	21.4.08	28.4.08	Victoria Road, Tunbridge Wells	Temporary traffic lights - energy supply works
	21.4.08	18.5.08	Dunstan Road, Tunbridge Wells	Road closure - new gas mains
Tonbridge & Malling	21.4.08	2.5.08	Butchers Lane, Mereworth	Road closure - sewer works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

SCOOP: Reporters Holly Mounter (left) and Hollie-Anna Sheppard (right) with Richard Branson at Heathrow Airport

Oi! Sir Richard tells all to teens

Youth magazine's latest scoop is chat with Branson

By **PETER BOYES**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SIR Richard Branson has revealed how he turned down a proposal to set up a new funeral parlour – called Virgin Stiffs.

He was speaking in an interview with Oi!, the trailblazing Kent magazine produced by teenagers for teenagers.

The billionaire businessman also told the magazine how he did not know the difference between net and gross profit until he was 50 because of his dyslexia.

Reporters Holly Mounter, 16, and Hollie-Anna Sheppard, 14, quizzed Sir Richard about some of the wild ideas he had come across during his long career.

He told them: "The story that truly gave me the sense that no idea was too mad came when a couple of guys approached me with the idea for Virgin Stiffs. They wanted to set up a funeral parlour under the Virgin Brand! Now, I love to think that most things are doable but I didn't really buy into that as an idea."

Dyslexia

Sir Richard, whose companies employ more than 50,000 people, criticised the state education system for failing to provide proper training for the outside world.

He said: "Aspects of school are not really particularly helpful in real life situations. I feel quite strongly that school studies should be part based on how successful companies – for example Tesco – work. I dropped out early. Because of my dyslexia I thought I would do better outside the school environment."

Asked if he still suffered from dyslexia, the 57-year-old said: "Well, I muddle words sometimes. For example, I didn't know the difference between net and gross profit until I was 50. I do think though that having to cope with dyslexia has made it easier for me to communicate what I want to say simply and clearly.

"For example, the Virgin brand came about because I wanted to describe something that was completely new and different – no jargon. People got it; now it's one of the most recognisable names in the world."

The interview took place at Heathrow, where the reporters witnessed the airport's first passenger flight using biofuel.

Holly, from Broadstairs, and Hollie-Anna, from Ramsgate, got the interview by contacting the Virgin press office. They had expected to get a statement from a spokesman, so were surprised to receive an invitation to meet Sir Richard at the event in February.

Afterwards, they said: "The fact that he made the time to see us over a cup of tea, talking to us as if he truly believed that our generation matters, made us want to be like him. That inspiration was the greatest gift he could have given us."

It is the latest scoop from the publication that brought the world the news that the Archbishop of Canterbury stops work at 6pm so he can watch The Simpsons. The story was spotted by The Times and followed up by international media.

Set up in March 2006 as a not-for-profit educational venture for young people, Oi! is now seven issues old.

It is published by Marlowe Academy with publishing partner Madeleine White, of creativeuk solutions. Each edition costs around £13,000 to produce, with £8,000 coming from commercial sponsorship and advertising.

Ms White said the rest of the money is sought from donations and foundations. Southern Water sponsored the latest issue and Allan Willett CMG, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, provided funding through his foundation.

Around 40,000 copies are distributed to schools, libraries and youth clubs around the county.

Ms White said the commercial aspect of the operation made it difficult to get lottery funding but helped guarantee the publication's independent voice.

"It belongs to the teenagers and not to a local authority or corporate partner. That's what makes it so effective."

Ms White, a 38-year-old mother of three, has a background in journalism, marketing and publishing. She is looking for funding for the next issue, which is scheduled for publication in July.

To help, visit www.creativeuk-solutions.co.uk.

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Line-up grows at festival

MORE names have been added to the line up for this summer's Lounge on the Farm festival.

The three-day festival takes place at Merton Farm near Canterbury on July 11-13.

Dance act Midfield General, who are on Fatboy Slim's Skint Records label, will be headlining the dance tent, with a host of new acts also confirmed for the 'sheep dip' tent. They include Los Campesinos, Esser, Johnny Foreigner and Those Dancing Days.

Medway band the Underground Heroes will also be appearing at the festival. Acts already announced include indie favourites Lightspeed Champion, Art Brut, Black Kids and The Bees.

Tickets range from £35 to £180, with discounted 'early bird' tickets available. For more information, visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

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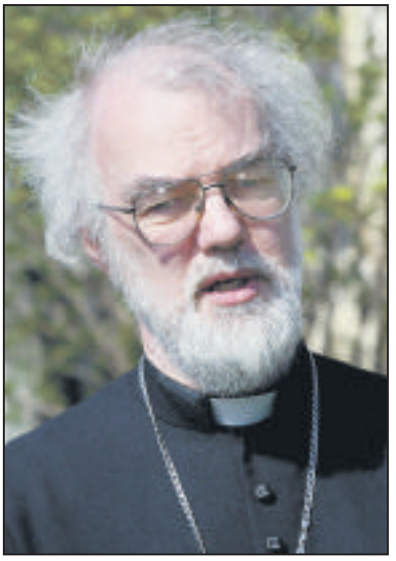

CALL FOR HELP: Archbishop Dr Rowan Williams

Archbishop in plea to save Christians in the Middle East

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has made an urgent call for people in the UK to "wake up" to the plight of Christians in the war-torn Middle East.

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

Dr Rowan Williams spoke clearly and concisely about the plight of Christians in places such as Iraq ahead of a conference on Wednesday.

He hosted the BibleLands conference at Lambeth Palace to discuss support for the Holy Land and was joined by Archbishop Paul Saya of Haifa, in Israel, and Bishop Angaelos, who represented the Coptic Church in the UK.

The archbishop said people in Britain needed to better understand the plight of their spiritual brothers and sisters in the troubled region.

He said: "There is an urgent need for people in the UK to wake up to the fact that Christians in the Middle East are living through a time of change more dramatic and more costly than anything seen for a thousand years and more.

"Apart from the tragic situation of Christian refugees from Iraq, there is a quiet but numerically huge exodus of Christians – especially but not exclusively educated Christians – from the whole region."

Dr Williams said the Christian communities left behind were exposed to "violence and extremism" in many countries.

He added: "We badly need to be better informed about both the present and the past of these communities."

The archbishop also announced the funding of a scholarship to study the impact of migration among Iraqi Christians.

There is also to be a bursary granted to two deacons from the Lebanon to allow them to come to the UK to study English for two months and to see how the Church operates in Britain.

Dr Williams described these as "small measures" but said he hoped it would help Christians in the Middle East to feel that they are not being ignored by the West.

• *Opinion, page 32.*

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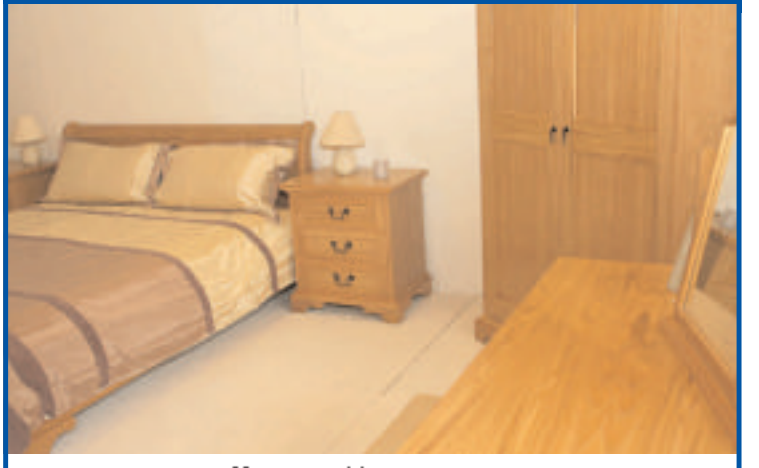

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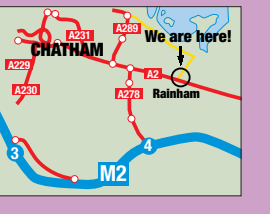

Help for those who have no sight

THE Kent Association for the Blind is hosting an exhibition of equipment and innovations for people with low vision.

A wide range of items will be on display including magnifiers, talking equipment, CCTV, computer systems, as well as information on tape services.

The association's rehabilitation team will also be on hand to give advice and information.

It takes place at the KAB sight centre in College Road, Maidstone on Thursday, May 1 from 10am to 3pm.

Admission is free and there is wheelchair access. For more information, call 01622 691357 or email rehab.maidstone@kab.org.uk.

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DJ Pete Tong is bringing the tunes to town

SUPERSTAR: DJ Pete Tong will be playing at an aftershow party as part of Radio 1's Big Weekend

By **JANE CONNOLLY** and **LAUREN MUMFORD**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RADIO 1's Big Weekend will be a real homecoming for Kent-born superstar DJ Pete Tong.

Tong will be in the line-up at The Official Aftershow on Saturday, May 10, where he will demonstrate the skills that have made him one of the world's biggest names in dance music.

Tong welcomed the decision to bring the Big Weekend and its inaugural aftershow party to the county town.

"There's been some great stuff coming out of Maidstone in terms of electronic music," he said. "We've never had an aftershow party before and this is a natural choice. It's totally appropriate, with its history of electronic music, to hold it in Maidstone. I'm really looking forward to working with ClubClass and Nic Fanciulli."

Heavy metal

While studying at King's School in Rochester, Tong became interested in drumming and was part of a heavy metal band until a school concert introduced him to a DJ for the first time. Tong, now 47, became heavily involved in the Kent music scene and landed his first radio job with Invicta FM.

"I grew up with the soul scene, rare groove and the early days of rap," he said. "I suppose I was partly responsible for making it happen, but there was a circuit within the South East and we had strong groups of people going to each others' clubs. We felt like we were miles outside the 'hot scene', but it was a great place to be."

He is looking forward to sharing the bill with headliner Laurent Garnier, who has played at Tong's club in Ibiza several times.

"He's a complete maverick and he doesn't follow any trend or edict," he said. "We all hunt around for great new records, but he's just as likely to play something from 20 years ago. Anyone who hasn't seen him definitely should."

Meanwhile, traffic issues, parking and policing were the main concerns brought up by residents at a public meeting ahead of the Big Weekend.

The session at Maidstone Grammar School this week gave families living near Mote Park the chance to express their fears to the police, Radio 1 and Maidstone council about the event.

The Big Weekend is the largest free-ticketed music festival in the UK and will attract 20,000 people to the park on May 10 and 11.

Superintendent Ian Hall, the operations commander for the event, said: "Most issues have been about parking, noise and antisocial behaviour, but having 20,000 people in the park across the road does not mean there is going to be disaster."

Police will be heavily patrolling the park, the surrounding area and dealing with traffic issues.

Nearby roads will be closed over the weekend and Square Hill Road will be partially shut.

The council is working with the BBC and SJM Concerts to ensure sound levels are acceptable.

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Female consultants 'are less productive'

Report claims male doctors get more work done

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

MALE hospital consultants are more productive than their female counterparts, a new study has suggested.

A report by the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, which is bound to cause controversy, found that male consultants have "significantly" higher rates of treating inpatients than females across the NHS.

The research explored whether gender affected productivity across 10 surgical and medical specialties.

The main author of the report, Dr Karen Bloor, a senior researcher in the department of health science at the University of York, said: "The implications of these results for the planning of the medical workforce are evidently important, as feminisation of the profession could lead to reduced productivity over time.

"The recent increase in medical school intake, with the substantially increased proportion of female students, could in principle create less of an increase in NHS activity than policymakers intended from this investment, unless these new women doctors are enabled to deliver greater NHS activity.

"The existence and the causes of gender differences in consultant activity are fundamental issues for researchers and NHS policymakers."

However, the authors point to flaws in the research and its methods and say there is no conclusive proof that male doctors are better or even quicker at treating patients than women.

Hospital trusts in Kent were unwilling to put forward a female consultant to discuss the findings of the report.

Unexplained

A spokesman for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said: "The trust does monitor the work of all its consultants, service by service, and will expect equal productivity regardless of gender.

"Where unexplained differences in performance appear between consultants in the same speciality steps are taken to identify the issues in order to achieve the clear objectives of providing high quality, safe service to patients, and service efficiency and effectiveness."

The trust was unable to say how many female consultants and how many male consultants it employs.

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), which measure information about how admitted patients are treated, was used in the journal's research, which was carried out across the country.

The unit of measurement was the Finished Consultant Episode (FCE), which is the period of inpatient care by one doctor.

Data from consultants working in general surgery, urology, trauma and orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, general medicine, gastroenterology, cardiology, paediatric medicine and geriatric medicine was used in the journal's report.

It states: "Men have significantly higher activity rates than women, after accounting for age, specialty and hospital trust."

But the report also states the "accuracy, comprehensiveness and validity" of HES data has been questioned, particularly in relation to measuring consultant performance.

FCEs measure the care provided by one consultant. However, as the report notes, patients are usually allocated to the most senior consultant and if they are then passed to a more junior doctor or surgeon it may not be recorded.

As there are still a minority of female consultants in senior roles compared to males this could go someway to accounting for the results of the study, the report states.

The authors speculate about reasons for the anomaly between male and female productivity.

"The result could reflect women taking more time with each patient, having different communication styles and perhaps being more meticulous, comprehensive and holistic in their care.... On the other hand, the difference could result from women being less likely to work substantially out of normal working hours due to family and other commitments."

• ***Are you a female consultant working in Kent? Can you help explain the findings of the report and, importantly, do you agree? Email jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk.***

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Care stats help

THE University of Kent has developed a new way of gathering information to help the UK's biggest social care provider.

A team of experts and researchers from the university's Tizard Centre has developed a new methodology to help care group Turning Point make their services better for the users.

Turning Point provides care for people with substance misuse problems, learning difficulties and mental health issues.

The new approach will help the organisation carry out user satisfaction surveys.

The results can then be used to monitor its performance and to lobby the Government for funds to make changes to its programmes.

images of Kent

AFTER the sunshine we have enjoyed over the last few days, it is hard to imagine our picture was taken just a fortnight ago.

Christopher Austin, of Rainham, took this picture in Cobham Woods, next to the A2, on Sunday, April 6.

If you would like to see your photo here, send it to KOS Media, Images of Kent, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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Last call to test your enterprise against one of TV's dragons

By PHIL REILLY
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

TIME is running out for organisations and communities to enter the Enterprising Britain 2008 competition.

The contest, which was won in 2006 by Kent Science Park, celebrates groups that have transformed the social and economic fortunes of their communities.

Organisers are looking for an organisation to represent the South East region in the national finals.

The closing date for entry is May 9.

Entries can come from a range of places – from towns that have found innovative ways to increase employment to individual projects that have overcome local challenges.

When Kent Science Park won it was praised for creating an inspiring environment that enabled business growth, job opportunities and education and skills initiatives to flourish.

Last year's winner was the Slough Creative Academy, which improved employment locally and encouraged businesses in creative industries such as film, dance and music.

One of the judges is entrepreneur and Dragons' Den regular Peter Jones.

JUDGEMENT DAY: Dragon Peter Jones

Mr Jones said: "I have been extremely impressed by the strength, determination and innovative thinking demonstrated by those people who have used enterprise to transform the social and economic fortunes of their community.

"The Enterprising Britain competition is a great chance for enterprise success stories from across the South East to shine and I urge people from across the region to enter."

The competition was launched by Shriti Vadera, the minister for business competitiveness, and is run by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and development agency Seeda.

Seeda spokeswoman Helen Cook said the South East had created a strong enterprise culture.

She added: "Being part of the competition is a huge privilege and a fantastic opportunity to show the rest of the UK why the South East is a great place in which to live and work."

For more information about Enterprising Britain 2008, entry criteria and how to enter, visit www.enterprisingbritain.org.uk or email helencook@seeda.co.uk.

Find more news and sport updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk

Your chance to be a volunteer

YOUNG people are being given an opportunity to take part in volunteering projects.

Volunteering group VSU is setting up a host of local projects for 16-25 year olds to get involved in and is hoping to get young people to shape the sort of work they do.

VSU will be starting Youth Action Teams around the county that will meet once a month and communicate weekly by email.

The teams will then start their projects in August and complete them in May 2009.

Team members will also receive training in first aid, presentation, media, public speaking and team-work skills.

They will also work towards a Youth Achievement Award.

A VSU spokesman said: "We are looking for energetic, creative and enthusiastic 16-25-year-olds from all backgrounds with an ability to talk to their peers."

To get involved, call 07960 527253.

Car park King

COUNCIL chiefs are using celebrity impersonations to remind people not to leave valuables in their cars.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has installed 'talking' ticket machines in its Great Hall car park featuring impersonated voices of stars including Elvis Presley, Michael Caine and Frank Bruno.

The council hopes the machines will also deter burglars.

Other famous voices that are impersonated are Joe Pasquale and Boycie from Only Fools and Horses.

Nine more machines have been ordered.

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Birthday party for killed teen

THE parents of a teenage boy kicked to death by a former friend two years ago were joined by 200 supporters to celebrate what would have been his 18th birthday.

Lloyd and Sue Chapman gathered at the event in Sittingbourne on Sunday to mark what would have been the coming of age of their son Michael, who died in June, 2006.

They gathered in an emotional tribute to the teen – who was killed by former school friend Lee Cowie as he walked home from a night out across a cricket ground.

Mr Chapman said: "We promised Michael an 18th birthday party and we can't just dismiss that promise. I know he is looking down on us.

"And when he sees how many people are going to turn up just for him – not for us – he will be smiling. That is going to mean the world to us."

The 16-year-old was described at the time of his death as "a loveable boy, always smiling".

But he was set upon by Cowie – who claimed his former friend had been "bad-mouthing" him behind his back – on June 16, 2006.

Cowie later admitted manslaughter and was jailed for four years.

Mr and Mrs Chapman met Justice Minister Jack Straw earlier this year to demand tougher sentences for violent criminals. They expressed their anger at the length of Cowie's sentence.

The mourners gathered in Sittingbourne Science Park where X Factor finalist Ben Mills performed in a moving tribute to Michael.

There must be no let up in war on hospital bugs

KOS media CAMPAIGN 2008

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

HOSPITAL trusts must not get complacent in the fight against superbugs, a campaigner has warned.

Laura Probert joined the National Concern for Healthcare Infections (NCHI), which works to raise awareness of superbugs and other infections, after her mother died at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford three years ago.

Mrs Probert said: "She was in there because she fell and broke her hip, she was not ill. They operated and she got an MRSA infection in the wound.

"She was in hospital for three months and developed Clostridium difficile and E.coli as well – she just gave up in the end."

Since the loss of her 82-year-old mother, Mrs Probert, who lives in Ramsgate, has been working on behalf of the NCHI and also plans to join LINk, the Local Involvement Network that will replace Patient and Public Involvement Forums.

"We were not told anything," she said. "It was such a battle to get information but it has picked up now and [the NHS] is taking it more seriously."

Message

Despite infection rates of MRSA and C diff decreasing in hospitals across the county, Mrs Probert is concerned that staff could get complacent and revert to bad practices.

KOS Media has been running a campaign to help doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in the battle against superbugs.

The award-winning publisher has been raising awareness that simply washing your hands at home and work using soap and water and the alcohol hand-washing gel provided in hospitals is the simplest way to stop infection spreading.

East Kent Hospitals Patient and Public Involvement Forum conducted an audit of people using alcogel at the William Harvey, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Kent and Canterbury hospitals.

More than 1,500 doctors, nurses, patients, visitors and other staff were observed by volunteers over four days in February and found more were using the alcogel than last October.

However, rates of only 17 per cent of patients and 40 per cent of visitors meant much more should be done, Mrs Probert said.

Mrs Probert is speaking at the Westminster Health Forum in May about monitoring hand-hygiene procedures and welcomed KOS Media's campaign.

"I think the message is getting through to doctors, nurses and other health care professionals but I think they do need to target patients and visitors."

The NCHI is mostly made up of people who have lost family members to superbugs such as C diff and MRSA for more information visit www.nc-hi.com.

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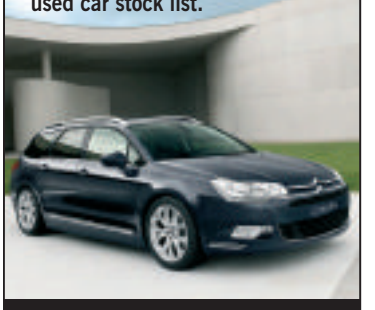

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Benefits cheat claimed £12,000

A WOMAN who dishonestly claimed more than £12,000 in benefits has been given a suspended sentence.

Joy Gleeson, 53, from Beatrice Road in Margate, pleaded guilty to failing to declare she was living with her husband, which resulted in overpayments of income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit between April 2005 and September 2006.

She also admitted a separate offence relating to Disability Living Allowance between July 2006 and January 2007.

She was given suspended sentences of 39 weeks and 26 weeks, to run concurrently, and ordered to remain at her current address for 18 months.

Cllr Martin Wise, Thanet District Council's cabinet member for finance, said: "Every time someone makes false declarations or fails to inform us of changes in their circumstance, they're stealing from the public purse and that means they're stealing from everyone of us who pays our council tax.

"We won't tolerate that and will continue to take action against these people on behalf of the paying majority."

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Giant cake going 'cheep'

A CAKE weighing a record-breaking tonne will be cooked up at a wildlife centre as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations.

Kent Wildlife Trust will attempt to make the biggest-ever bird seed cake to set a new Guinness World Record at Tyland Barn in Sandling on Tuesday.

The cake will be crafted under the watchful eye of two invigilators. It will be made from 400kg of bird seed, 400kg of melted lard and 200kg of flour, which will be mixed together in a huge 6ft by 3ft wooden 'cake box'.

The flour and lard was donated by Sittingbourne-based Unipet International and the 'cake box' was donated by building merchants Travis Perkins, based in Ashford.

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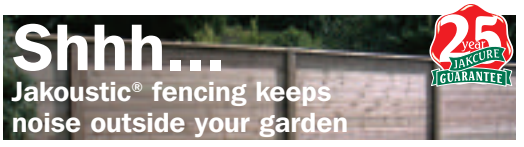

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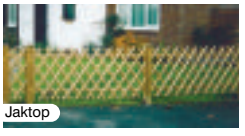
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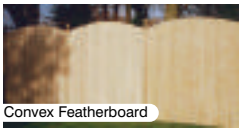
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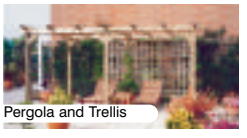
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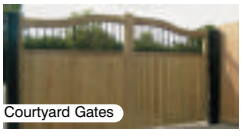
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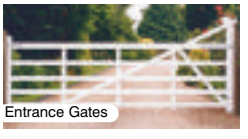
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Coping with the hidden disease of Fibromyalgia

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

FIGHTING BACK: Pam Wright was diagnosed with her the illness six years ago

WHILE working as a teacher in a special school, Pam Wright was used to helping her pupils learn how to overcome their disabilities.

So when she was diagnosed with an incurable physical condition, she used the same techniques to fight against her own painful and debilitating symptoms.

Ms Wright, who lives in Whitstable, has now written a book about how to cope with Fibromyalgia – a chronic pain and fatigue condition she was diagnosed with six years ago.

She explained how the illness manifested itself.

"It was taking me longer to get up in the mornings. I had terrible pain down my arms and every muscle in my body. It is almost indescribable. It feels like getting run over by a lorry," she said.

Ms Wright, 59, had to give up her job at St Nicholas Special School, near Canterbury, because of the sudden bouts of unbearable pain that could strike at any time.

She resolved to fight the disease and told KOS Media of the approach she took.

"I had an observational background so I treated myself as my own project," she said.

"I took small steps towards working it out for myself. I made lists of what the triggers were and what was happening so I could explain it to my GP."

Despite leaving her career and busy lifestyle behind, Ms Wright said she was "too young to give up" and through her reading and research around the condition she discovered life coaching.

Now a qualified life balance and health coach she has had her first book, The Fibromyalgia Coach, published.

"I decided I should put all the issues around Fibromyalgia, not actually the symptoms, but all the other things like being able to cope with losing your job or status and how to handle people who don't believe you are ill because you look healthy," she said.

More than 460 people across the county go to support groups run by the Kent representative of UKFibromyalgia, a charity that supports people with the condition.

Ms Wright said: "You set goals, being aware of what is possible, always looking at the ability rather than the disability," she said.

She claims to have improved the life of every person with Fibromyalgia that she has treated through her new career as a life coach.

"I've had clients from all over the country who have shifted their perception of where they are and how they can be and moved forward.

"Not one person has not changed positively," the divorced mother-of-two said.

Around one in 100 people develop the condition at some point of their life and nine out of 10 of them are women.

The techniques outlined in her book can also be applied to other chronic and debilitating conditions such as Myalgic Encephalopathy (ME) or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

People use prescription painkillers and anti-depressants to help them sleep, but Ms Wright said she was determined not to go down the "drugs route".

"I had relaxation therapy, warm baths, stretching, yoga – but you have to be really self-controlled and aware you cannot do anything too fast.

"On really bad days I managed to get through [the pain] with Western acupuncture," she said.

Condition

She said no one with the condition has ever written a life-coaching book about how to cope with Fibromyalgia.

NHS Direct states that the onset of the condition could be related to physical or emotional trauma, although the exact cause remains unclear.

Ms Wright added: "I can say I have had an interesting rollercoaster ride. I was head of music in a secondary school for much of my teaching career – I lived the job. I don't think I had enough balance. I've also had other illnesses. I had cancer and had a mastectomy 10 years ago. So there was trauma prior to getting Fibromyalgia."

Ms Wright's book is available at www.amethystaccordlifeservices.com and costs £14.99. For details of a Kent support group for Fibromyalgia call Margaret Dobson on 01634 865 925.

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Road-rail depot is slammed by locals in survey

A CONTROVERSIAL bid to build a huge freight depot in a scenic village has been slammed by residents.

The Kent International Gateway road-rail interchange in Bearsted was branded "unacceptable" by 86 per cent of people living in Maidstone in a new survey carried out by Local Opinion.

Seventy-nine per cent of those against the depot, which would be the size of 100 football pitches, said it would ruin Bearsted's environment. And 76 per cent felt the depot would result in unacceptable levels of light and noise pollution.

A planning application for the 112-hectare depot running from junction seven to junction eight of the M20, was lodged last October, which Maidstone council is still considering.

If permission is granted Bearsted would become a major destination for lorries heading for the Continent to load freight on to trains using Kent's high-speed rail links.

The survey, carried out by the independent opinion poll company, also revealed that 70 per cent of 293 residents quizzed felt they were not being reliably informed of the full details of the AXA Group's proposals, which they see as the council's duty.

A council spokeswoman said: "We have received more than 2,500 representations on the application and will consider all comments until the application is decided."

For more information or to comment on KIG write to Rob Jarman at 13 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8HG, or email KIGcomments@maidstone.gov.uk.

For more information about Local Opinion visit www.localopinion.co.uk or call 01732 874054.

Power station 'killing tonnes of fish a year'

AS MANY as 50,000 fish can get killed in pipes used to cool Dungeness Power Station in just two hours, according to a marine expert.

Dr Peter Henderson, an Oxford University academic, said large pipes used to suck in water from the sea to cool the power station trap tonnes of fish, eggs, shrimp and crabs every year.

Around 70 species of fish live in the waters around Dungeness, including sprat, whiting and pout.

Sharks

Dr Henderson, who is also director of the Pisces Conservation environmental consultancy, said the number killed in the pipes at Dungeness was "very large".

He told KOS Media an estimated 5.5 tonnes (5,500 kg) of fish and 10 tonnes (10,000 kg) of crustaceans are killed in this way every year.

He said: "The only fish species that are not impinged are species that do not swim in the open water and therefore do not go near the intakes and very large fish such as sharks and tuna which can escape the intake flow or will not fit through the bars at the intake mouth.

"The commonest crustaceans impinged are shrimps and small crabs. Large edible crabs are not often impinged."

However, Dr Henderson said if a particularly large shoal of fish, such as sprat, were to swim past the intake pipes as many as two tonnes could be sucked into them in as little as two hours, or 50,000 individual fish.

DEATH AT SEA: Species like this whiting are killed in the pipes used to cool Dungeness

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

The pipes are not the only way in which sea creatures are killed by the power station.

More fish and crustaceans are killed when they pass through the station's cooling water circuits, which are used to condense steam.

Dr Henderson said the amount of sea life killed in this way is not recorded and is hard to estimate, although it is thought to kill millions of fish larvae and eggs every year.

This type of death is known as entrainment and Dr Henderson added that the numbers killed in this way at power stations across the UK "could be important".

Will Wright, Kent fisheries officer, said although the numbers of fish, eggs and crustaceans killed at Dungeness was high there were "plenty more fish in the sea".

He said that because of strict quotas on the numbers of fish that can be caught the numbers killed at Dungeness would not have any great affect on the fishing industry.

He added: "It isn't something the fishermen would complain about. They are more likely to be concerned about access to the beach."

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CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Pioneering rail line connected city to the coast

By **MICHAEL K BALDWIN**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE peace of Canterbury on Monday, May 3, 1830 was shattered by the sound of cannon fire from the Westgate Towers, signalling the departure of the first train on the newly-opened Canterbury to Whitstable railway.

That pioneering line, which took the more or less direct route between North Lane, Canterbury and Whitstable harbour, was constructed to ease communication between Canterbury and the sea, which had become progressively more difficult as the River Stour had silted up over the years.

Rocket

Railways were in their infancy and the decision was taken to work most of the line by steam haulage, using engines at Tyler Hill and at Clowes Wood. The section between Bogshole Brook and Whitstable harbour was initially worked by steam locomotive, the Invicta, now housed in the Museum of Canterbury in Stour Street.

The pioneering nature of the line can be judged by the fact that the George Stephenson works, which built the locomotive, designated it Number 12, Number 11 having been the famous Rocket.

The line was single track and traversed hilly ground, necessitating steep gradients. The half-mile tunnel at Tyler Hill, which was a great novelty, passes directly under part of the University of Kent at Canterbury.

The south portal is of an inverted U-shape, while the north portal is of horseshoe shape. As children, we were told that the two gangs building it didn't realise that they were digging different cross sections until they met in the middle, but that seems unlikely.

The journey over the six miles of track took about 45 minutes; hardly heroic, but a great improvement on the alternatives.

The railway struggled on as an independent venture until 1844, when it was taken over by the South Eastern Railway.

In 1846, the line was converted so that locomotives could be used for haulage throughout its length. The new Canterbury West railway station became the line's southern terminus.

A period of moderate prosperity followed, with passengers travelling to Whitstable to take the sea air and a good trade in freight.

As the years passed, the internal combustion engine and the bus started to eat into the passenger trade and passenger services were terminated in 1930.

Freight continued to be carried until the line was officially closed on November 29 1952. There was a brief re-opening following the 1953 floods, the main line to Whitstable having been severed. I watched as the track was taken up and the line was left to moulder away.

Generations of children had stood, like me, at the crossing gates and watched the trains chugging on their slow journey. Some would have been amazed that the engines which they saw at Whitstable station had travelled all the way from that far-off place, Canterbury.

Many faces would have been pushed against the railings around the muddy reservoir which was supposed to flush Whitstable harbour clean.

How many little boys, like me, spent their Sunday afternoons in the darkest recesses of the tunnel, emerging with soot streaming from their nostrils, but their eyes shining with delight?

Do others, like me, bear the scars from being chased along the railway line on their bicycles by farmers who had caught them scrumping?

Alas, nearly all has gone. The reservoir at Whitstable is a car park. Part of the line through Clowes wood is a footpath, the Crab and Winkle Way, but most isn't.

You have to go out of your way to find the tunnel, the portals of which are blocked and the middle of which is filled with fly ash to support the weight of the university buildings on top.

The south portal is still used as a shed by a school. The original old bridge in Whitstable has gone, mourned by some, but it was intended for the days of the horse and cart, not for cars.

In Clowes wood you can still sit beside the pond which was dug as a water supply for the stationary engine there. Embankments can still be found if you know where to look for them, but the old railway line is but a fading memory.

Yet let us not forget that in a leafy corner of Kent there was once a railway line which was truly pioneering and which acted as a signpost to the future in which the world would be covered by a network of railway lines and steam would rule the world.

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NUMBER 12: The Invicta, used on the Canterbury to Whitstable line

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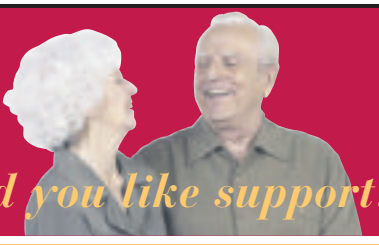

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WOMEN for MEN

LIVELY female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 **TXT**

SINGLE mum of two, 29, bubbly, bright, 5ft8, brown hair, green eyes, size 14 and curvy, seeking tall, muscular, outgoing guy for socialising and more. Box 438300 **TXT**

FUN, flirty female, nearly 30, bored of being single, seeking someone to take me out and show me a good time, petite with dark hair. Box 895349 **TXT**

CALLING all knights in shining armour, damsel in distress, 30, needs rescuing, can't guarantee love, but can guarantee laughs. Box 894062 **TXT P**

SINGLE Mum, 30, 5ft2, short brown hair, petite, loves pubs, clubs, eating out, nights in, seeking Mr Right for friendship, maybe more. Box 437895 **TXT**

HI! I'm Cheryl, 31, 5ft3, blonde, size 10, have 2 girls, likes walking, the gym and socialising, seeking a similar male for potential partnership!. Box 437744 **TXT**

HI I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-worker as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 436785 **TXT**

MUM of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH, likes keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559 **TXT P**

OUTGOING, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107 **TXT P**

DIVORCED, lively mum, 35, GSOH, enjoys time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930 **TXT P**

EASYGOING female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love and laughter. Box 437913 **TXT**

I'M an attractive, dark-haired female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffees, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic gent, for a chat and more. Box 436807 **TXT**

HI I'm 37, 5ft8, mousey long hair, grey eyes, n/s, large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactile, n/s gent, possibly romantic!. Box 435674 **TXT**

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **TXT**

LOVELY single Mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim build, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTM similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372889 **TXT P**

HI, I'm a fun-loving woman early 40, 5'1", curvy, enjoy eating out and cooking to walking, looking for man for happiness. Box 894398 **TXT**

FUN-LOVING, vivacious woman, 41, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, n/s for friendship & maybe more. Box 896889 **TXT**

MUM of two, 42, 5ft4, blonde hair, brown eyes, medium build, loves eating out, staying in, holidays, seeking male 37-45 with similar interests for love. Box 438349 **TXT P**

FEMALE, 42, 5ft7, slim, down-to-earth, normal! love bowling, cinema, clubs, seeking a male, 40-55, for friendship and more!. Box 436163 **TXT**

I'M Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952 **TXT**

TALL, outgoing lady, 43, large build, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and meet a nice chap! Let's chat!. Box 895908 **TXT P**

FUN-LOVING, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, N/S, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit, seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 814378 **TXT P**

BUBBLY female, 41, 5'2", n/s, enjoys pubs, restaurants, cinema, gsoh, interior design, seeks like minded, fun male for good times. Box 822703 **TXT**

HARD-WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 **TXT**

44YR old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim/medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give me a ring! Maidstone. Box 413448 **TXT**

PETITE, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S man to share things with. Box 429682 **TXT**

44YR old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with!. Box 436810 **TXT**

FRIENDLY, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441 **TXT P**

CARING, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead, likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTM male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 **TXT**

BABY blue-eyed female, 46, long blonde hair, 5ft3, medium-build, not bad looking! like going to clubs, dinners, cinema, music, seeking nice gents for possible relationship. Box 438437 **TXT**

HI, I'm 46. Music, laughter, sensitivity, and love, I guess that's what I want, but with someone special, are you him? Box 156956 **TXT P**

KIND, loving female, 44, blonde, 5'4", medium/curvy build, likes reading, live music, countryside, walks, seeks similar, adventurous male for happy times together. Kent. Box 805846 **TXT**

I'M Dawn, 47, quite shy and reserved, looking for someone special, I'm 5ft6, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, active, have one dog, work full time. Box 438796 **TXT**

HAPPY, fit, youthful 48yr old single mum, own home/car, very good sense of humour, likes all the normal social things, very honest, seeking sincere, stable, solvent man. Box 895929 **TXT**

MARLENE, 48, blonde hair, medium build, likes 4x4, gym, quad biking, a glass of wine, cinema, rugby/soccer/cricket, WLTM sincere guy for friendship and companionship. Box 894117 **TXT**

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 **TXT**

HI, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTM compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992 **TXT**

GENUINE, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover. Box 435441 **TXT**

YOUNG-AT-HEART female, 48, medium build, 5ft2, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeks someone with similar interests. Box 435098 **TXT**

HELLO, 49yr old female, 5ft3, blonde, nervous! outgoing, love music, socialising, simple things in life, seeking a male to look after and settle down with. Box 436633 **TXT**

LOVELY female, 49, divorced, 5ft, shoulder-length blonde hair, green eyes, size 16, likes dining out, staying in, walks in the country, seeking LTR with similar male. Box 437729 **TXT**

NEW to this, I'm a 58yr old woman, and enjoys walks, theatre, meals out, and WLTM genuine man for company. Box 437774 **TXT**

49Y/O female, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854 **TXT**

HI, I'm Anne, 50, 5'2", medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoy bowling, cinema, meals out, walks, like holidays, WLTM a like-minded man to share interests with. Box 438974 **TXT**

LOVING, lively, cuddly female, 50, 5ft4, loves rock music, walking, films, WLTM easygoing male for uncomplicated relationship, good times. Box 894299 **TXT P**

LOVING and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974 **TXT**

HI, I'm Yvette, 50, separated, blonde hair/blue eyes, size 12, 5'2", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 420160 **TXT**

SPORTY female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out, WLTM fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10"+, to share life. Box 165367 **TXT**

BRIGHT, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks, looking for companionship and friendship. Box 419966 **TXT**

LIVELY, understanding female, 51, large build, WLTM genuine, loving male, 46-58, for lasting, loving relationship. Faversham. Box 399271 **TXT**

HI, I'm kind, caring, attractive lady, 53yr young, 5'7", brown hair/eyes, GSOH, enjoy walks, reading, travelling etc, WLTM tall, considerate man for friendship, possibly LTR. Box 439240 **TXT**

HAPPILY divorced female, 56, 5ft4, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, intelligent, likes a laugh, the cinema, cooking, walks, WLTM compatible male for everyday romance... Box 439231 **TXT**

SINCERE female, 57, caring, separated, enjoys nights in/out, reading, walking, various activities, just separated for a friend and the see from there!. Box 437420 **TXT**

DIVORCED female, 50's, 5ft4, own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434901 **TXT**

FUN loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560 **TXT P**

HI I'm Jackie, 58, 5ft6, blue eyes, fun-loving, down-to-earth and considerate, love horses, seeking male 58-65 who loves music and animals to be my soulmate!. Box 436328 **TXT**

PARTIALLY disabled 58yr old country woman, 5'5", fairly attractive, enjoys gardening, home life, WLTM country loving man for company and possibly LTR. Box 439065 **TXT**

I'M 59, smoke/drink and ride a motorbike but I'm intelligent, sensitive, caring and loving, with GSOH and many friends, but still looking for someone special. Box 893919 **TXT**

HAPPY, contented solvent lady, 59, N/S, living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and means. Box 897822 **TXT P**

61-YEAR-OLD lively, divorcee, blonde, smart, medium build, looking for a gentleman to be knight in shining armour. Box 439019 **TXT**

SOLVENT, cuddly female, 59, 5'1", love the countryside, foreign travel, seeks happy, solvent male, 50s-62, for affection and TLC. Box 394179 **TXT**

DIVORCED lady, 61, N/S, medium build, loves movies, classic music, comedy, restaurants, cooking, gardening, reading, driving, seeks tactile man, for something special. Box 424898 **TXT**

WIDOWED female, 62, WLTM trustworthy, honest caring guy 62-65 to share and enjoy the simple life, not fussed if you smoke/drink etc. life's too short. Box 438401 **TXT**

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YOUNG 61 year old, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, likes dancing, walks, eating in/out. I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Margate. Box 434424 **TXT**

SINCERE female, 63, loves cosy nights in/out, cinema, holidays, seeking sincere, honest male 60-65, to enjoy life and perhaps romance with. Box 438568 **TXT**

BLONDE lady, 60's, 5ft7, slim, n/s, likes holidays, dancing, 60's music and country & western, WLTM tall, sincere gent. Box 436618 **TXT**

CARING, loyal and young-at-heart lady, 65, 5ft, blonde hair, looking for someone nice, friendly, who likes eating out, restaurants, holidays, for company. Box 899242

Women for women

LOVING, young 25yr old female with a kind heart and passion for life, short hair, blue eyes, likes music, socialising, seeks a like-minded female. Box 431117 **TXT**

CUDDLY female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, passionate Scorpio, loves music, animals, reading/writing, stars, very genuine, meals in/out, seeking boyish female, who's loving/caring. Box 433152 **TXT**

CAPRICORN female, 48, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sport, reading, WLTM someone in the Maidstone area. Box 434547 **TXT**

HI, I'm Maggie, a sociable Sagittarian, 52-year-old brunette, likes music, dancing, eating out, seeking like-minded female, 40-55, for fun and more. Box 435191 **TXT**

Just friends

N/S female, 63, disability scooter user, GSOH, seeks straight, fit female to share 17 day Med cruise, 1/3 paid for, as helpful companion. Box 438793

MEN for WOMEN

HI, 29, 5ft7, medium build, short dark hair, brown eyes, GSOH, loves nights out and cosy nights in, seeking older lady to share good times with. Box 439071 **TXT**

NICE, caring, single guy. 30, 5ft7, medium build, likes eating out, cinema, pubs, walking, cooking, WLTM kind, honest , caring woman, for fun, friendship/relationship. Box 439080 **TXT**

31 year old magician, who is looking for a lady who is fun-loving to bring magic into my life! Box 893857 **TXT**

AVERAGE looking guy, 32, slim, tall, grey eyes, short hair, into regular things, pubs, restaurants, GSOH, WLTM similar-aged lady for fun evenings & possible LTR. Box 894163 **TXT P**

RECENTLY separated dad of 1, 32, enjoys most things in life, seeks similar female for friendship and more. Ashford. Box 429872 **TXT P**

HI, I'm Nick, athletic build, slim, 5'11", brown hair/eyes, looking for fun, friendship and more, loves countryside, walks, beaches. Box 439213

HONEST 36yr old, 6ft5, muscular-build, dark hair, good-looking, n/s, 1 daughter, enjoys a drink, weight-training, wildlife, reading, fishing, seeking curvy female for friendship and more. Box 437414 **TXT P**

I'M Andy, 35, work full time, have own car, N/S, faithful natured, reliable, no ties, no kids, WLTM a nice lady to woo and win!. Box 893907

GENUINE guy, 5ft9, fair hair, 35, likes cars, music, pubs/clubs, looking for honest and genuine woman to spend time with. Box 439095 **TXT**

I'M Stuart, 36, 6ft6, short dark hair, stocky build, love squash, badminton, swimming, the gym, theatre, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 **TXT**

HONEST, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTM like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details!. Box 430440 **TXT P**

SINGLE male, 37, 6ft, medium build, interests include cycling, beach walks, meals, socialising, WLTM nice, similar lady for potential romance. Box 438359 **TXT P**

CREATIVE male, 35, 6ft, slim, dark hair/eyes, loves music, travel, history, painting, cinema, reading etc, seeks laid back, slim, attractive female, 26-35. Whitstable. Box 380976 **TXT P**

DOWN-TO-EARTH, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship, enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 **TXT P**

NON-SMOKING male, 38, likes cinema, reading, football, eating out, quiet nights in, seeks female, N/S, for friendship/relationship. Box 894049 **TXT**

MARK, 38, quite laid-back and easy-going, seeking a lady to enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks and days out with, hopefully much more. Box 437866 **TXT**

INDEPENDENT male, 38, slim, 5ft8, short brown hair, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, staying in, has a cockateel, seeks lovely lady to wine and dine. Box 438305 **TXT P**

JASON, 38, 5ft8, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship and good times. Box 433326 **TXT**

MALE 38, with brown hair, big smile, big heart, and big personality seeks caring and affectionate lady for love in all weather!. Box 434270 **TXT**

HI I'm 38, 5ft8, medium-stocky build, 2 children, love bike-rides, swimming, walks, pubs, seeking female partner for fun, friendship, and to start new life with!. Box 436381 **TXT**

ATTRACTIVE independent, professional male, 40, own home/car, loves wining/dining, the sun, holidays, cinema, pubs occasionally, seeking a fun, sincere, loving female, to enjoy each others company. Box 434103 **TXT**

I'M an honest and easygoing, young looking and fit male, 5ft9ins. love live music, eating out, theatre, cinema and pubs, seeking a like-minded female. Box 893760

ROMANTIC Pisces, 39, enjoys finer things in life, seeking genuine female, to enhance my world and enjoy life with. Box 408404 **TXT**

ATTRACTIVE guy, nice to be with, laid-back, I'm 41, 5ft9, medium/stocky build, brown hair, own business/home, enjoy walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 430286 **TXT**

JOKER, 41, loves animals and having lots of laughs, seeks a female of similar character for fun-loving relationship. Box 438023 **TXT**

SELF employed chap, loves cooking, fishing, travelling, holidays. I'm 43, and looking for a single, lovely lady to get to know. Box 439172 **TXT**

ACTIVE male, 40, divorced, 5'11", medium build, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, pubs, clubs, evenings in/out, most things, seeks like-minded female for a LTR. Box 410734 **TXT**

HELLO you, if you're fed up with looking back at the past and wondering 'oh what if?' I'm 41 and I'm your man!. Box 909888 **TXT P**

WARM, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967 **TXT**

HANDSOME male, 43, slim-build, good-looking, enjoys music, cinema, nights in with a glass of wine, seeks attractive, kind, caring female, 30-45, for fun/friendship/relationship, maybe more. Box 367907 **TXT**

RICHARD, 43, single, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, loves theatre/music, holidays, travel, bowling, WLTM female 34-56 to share good times and hopefully find love with. Box 438832 **TXT**

EASY-GOING 43yr old single dad, stocky build, very confident, GSOH, enjoy pubs, meals out, looking for a female to share laughs and outings. Box 435262 **TXT**

HAPPY go lucky male, 43, dark hair, like theatre, beach walks, restaurants, looking for loving, warm female for lasting relationship. Box 437561 **TXT**

I'M 45, 5ft10, medium build, blue eyes, shaved head, like having fun, a laugh, love music and film, seeking a female 25-48 for romance. Box 435737 **TXT P**

HONEST, tactile, romantic male 42, 5'10", green eyes, varied interests, the gym, wining, dining out, seeks female/single mum, 30-45, for friendship and more. Box 390669 **TXT P**

ACTIVE male, 44, 6'2", slim/medium, blue eyes, brown hair, enjoys most things in life, especially travelling and adventures, seeking female for company or more. Box 920903 **TXT P**

PROFESSIONAL male, 45, own home/car, likes cinemas, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 426202 **TXT**

BLOND, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664 **TXT**

WARM, sincere, n/s, eligible, stimulating, male, 46, well groomed, own home/car, 5'10", slim/medium, settled but playful, seeks similar lady to share LTR and smiles. Box 924095 **TXT P**

MALE, 47, 5ft10, no ties, N/S, likes music, travel, pubs, walks, looking for LTR with a sweet natured woman. Box 894116 **TXT**

LOOKING for friendship, maybe more with an intelligent, slim, attractive woman. I'm fit, 40's, sociable, sensitive, and fun, enjoys good company, like a drink and smoke. Box 897985 **TXT P**

FIT male, 47, hard-working, 3 grown up children, likes going out, eating out, staying in, cinema/theatre, walks in countryside, WLTM attractive lady for partnership. Box 438586 **TXT**

HI, I'm Simon, 47, 6ft, athletic build, divorced, like music, gigs, sports, staying, theme parks, looking for slim lady, 30-45, with GSOH for good times. Box 439180 **TXT**

MICHAEL, 48, hard-working, shy, likes music, classic cars, good meals, socialising, WLTM female with similar interests to care for and find true happiness with. Box 439215 **TXT**

GOOD-LOOKING male, 47, VGSOH, medium build, varied interests, looking for friendship and love with honest, easy-going female with GSOH, kids not a problem. Box 898446 **TXT**

EASYGOING male, 48, slim build, short brown hair/eyes, likes swimming, gardening, walking, cycling, eating in and out, pubs, looking for female, for lasting love. Box 806905 **TXT P**

AFFECTIONATE and considerate man, 50yr looking for a beautiful, single female for happy times and more. Box 438932 **TXT**

MALE, 50, looking for black lady, 30-60, likes eating in and out, walks, music, cinema, having a laugh, likes what you read? Box 439057

HI there, 50yr old male, 6ft, short hair, loves the cinema, walks, going out, pubbing, seeking female with GSOH for like-minded conversation and more. Box 437486 **TXT P**

YOUNG 51, good-looking, young-looking, N/S, GSOH, fit, slim, romantic, solvent, caring, likes most things in life, food/wine etc, seeking genuine lady to share life with. Box 434593 **TXT**

HARD working, fit, nice guy, 51, 5ft6. I'm loyal and have a big heart. I have 2 dogs, and enjoy the cinema, cosy nights, eating out. Box 437829 **TXT**

EURASIAN gentleman, 52, loves fast cars, cooking, theatre, sports, a good laugh, own business, seeking female for friendship or more. Box 439253 **TXT**

KIND male, 50, 5ft11, slim build, N/S, 2 boys (19 &16), likes eating out, visiting London, weekends!!! Looking for kind, caring lady, looks not important. Box 425308 **TXT P**

ALAN, 53yr old widower, medium build, own home/car, would like to meet sincere, genuine woman, interested in gardening, motorbikes, pubs/social drinking. Box 900317 **TXT**

GARY, 55 years old, 6'3", large build, ex doorman, solvent, looking for someone to love and to have fun times with. Box 900009 **TXT P**

YOUNG 54yr old single male, no ties, generally easy-going, likes most things in life, WLTM lady to enjoy nice times, good company/relationship. Box 429955 **TXT P**

I'M 63, likes animals and riding on my Harley, looking for a lady who likes to enjoy life, enjoys drinks and the countryside. Box 437612 **TXT**

67YR old loyal, smart-dressed man, looking for young lady with many interests for lasting happiness. Box 439216 **TXT**

ROMANTIC, young looking 67yr old guy, 5ft11, enjoys theatre, drives, holidays, meals out, countryside. WLTM romantic, slim woman. Box 439208 **TXT**

Men for men

SINCERE male, 23, 5ft4, quite slim, likes dancing, singing, socialising, WLTM a male with good personality for fun and more. Box 439224 **TXT**

35YR old male, looking for fun with an attractive man. I'm good looking, with a slim/medium build. Box 437652 **TXT**

40YR old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking, looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 **TXT**

GOOD guy, looking for male, 35-50. I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613 **TXT**

GAY male, 42, seeks down to earth, gay male for fun and romance. Box 803816 **TXT**

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SINGLE Mum of 2, 31, great SOH, works full time, seeking male with GSOH, fun-loving and romantic, for possible relationship. Box 438417 **TXT**

31Y/O Chinese girl, 5ft4, slim, no children, seeking tall, white, loving, caring, all-Eastern male for serious relationship. Box 438931 **TXT**

BLACK female, 32, 5ft8, likes cooking, reading, going out, WLTM a nice man 34-50, down2earth and fun to be with, to find out more. Box 438585 **TXT**

TALL, black, pretty female, 31, new to the Chatham area, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male 34-47 for LTR. Box 437778 **TXT**

UPBEAT girl, 31, bored silly and just looking for friends to go out and have a laugh with, nothing else. Preferably students in the Canterbury. Box 895165 **TXT**

SINGLE Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5ft8, dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 438941

LIVELY, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124 **TXT**

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **TXT**

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406670 **TXT**

HONEST, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, dvds etc, WLTM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 927816

KIND, warm female, 32, 5'6", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLTM tall, honest, trustworthy male, for friendship. Box 430993 **TXT**

CUTE, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 **TXT**

KIND, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694 **TXT P**

ATTRACTIVE 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **TXT P**

MANDY, 38, lovely brunette, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, WLTM honest, romantic N/S man. Box 432639 **TXT**

SINGLE mum, 38, slim, long hair, love rock music, concerts, bikes, in need of attention, love and respect. Box 897114 **TXT P**

BUBBLY, separated female, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 **TXT P**

DECENT 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664 **TXT**

KENT female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **TXT**

HONEST lady, 40, slim build, like walks, cinema, looking for nice man to share quality time together and cuddles. Box 437940 **TXT**

41YR old female, separated with 3 children, medium-build, dark hair, seeking a male to share life with again who enjoys socialising, cinema, music and holidays!. Box 437639 **TXT**

BUBBLY 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLTM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 **TXT**

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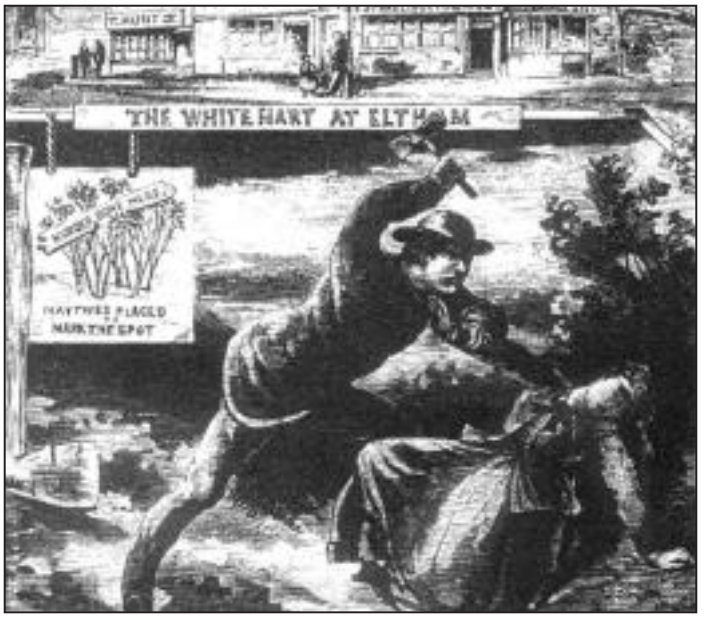

MURDER MOST FOUL: The killing of Jane Maria Clousen, a 17-year-old servant girl

A blood-soaked history of Kent

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THE villagers of Goudhurst gathered what weapons they could find and waited to repel a murderous gang of smugglers.

It was 261 years ago today that, in 1747, the Hawkhurst Gang, a ruthless mob that had terrorised communities across Kent and Sussex, planned to ransack the village and slaughter its inhabitants. But the people of Goudhurst were prepared.

Under the leadership of former military man George Sturt, they had gathered all the weapons they could lay their hands on, cast bullets from the lead of the church roof, dug trenches and dispersed themselves strategically.

Exactly what happened during what became known as the Battle of Goudhurst is not known, but by the end, three of the Hawkhurst Gang lay dead and the rest had retreated.

It is one of many grisly episodes from the county's past recorded in a book entitled A Grim Almanac of Kent by WH Johnson. The book contains a ghastly event or grim fact for every day of the year.

For example, on April 16, 1915, an army lieutenant was shot dead in a car on the East Cliff at Ramsgate after dark.

The gunman was one of a group of sentries who had been chatting with a police constable named Simmons just seconds earlier.

The car was spotted when its bright headlights were seen coming from the direction of Albion House, which was against regulations that required headlights to be kept low.

The sentry called for the car to halt, and after it did not he shouted the order three more times. It still did not stop, so the sentry fired his gun, as he later claimed, at the car's wheel.

When the car pulled to a stop, Lt Ronald Winch, a passenger, lay dead.

A verdict of death by misadventure was given by an inquest jury, and no blame attached to the sentry.

The book also tells the story of pregnant 17-year-old Jane Maria Clousen, who was found murdered at a popular lovers spot in Kidbrooke Lane, Eltham, on April 26, 1871.

NOT GUILTY: Edmund Pook was cleared

Around 20,000 onlookers crowded the murder site the following Sunday as the police scoured it for clues. Nearby they found a hammer used to bludgeon her.

Jane, a servant girl, had told her uncle days earlier that she was pregnant and that the father was Edmund Pook, 20, the son of the house.

She said the pair had planned to run away together, but when police interviewed Pook he described her as "a dirty young woman" and claimed to have been returning from Lewisham the night of the murder.

He was charged with murder, but cleared by a jury after a four-day trial.

The ironmonger who sold the murder weapon said that Pook was not the man he sold it to, and blood on his clothing was described as a result of an epileptic fit during which he bit his tongue.

Jane's murderer was never found.

• ***A Grim Almanac of Kent (Sutton Publishing) is out now priced £14.99.***

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Donors, act now

BADMINTON champion Paul German is living proof of the importance of organ donation.

If it hadn't been for the kidney his father donated to him, he would not be here today, and his three children and five grandchildren would probably not be here today either.

His father, now 80-years-old, is also living proof that you can donate a kidney and go on to lead a long, healthy and productive life.

Most people realise the importance of being prepared to donate vital organs, but knowing this and signing up to the donor register are two different things.

For all the good intentions there is a massive waiting list for people in need of life-saving transplants.

The tragedy is that around 400 people, young and old, die every year without getting the transplants they need.

Even if someone has signed up to the donor register, doctors must still ask the next of kin before they are allowed to use the organs.

It is vital everyone who can signs up to the register and lets their families know of their intentions. To register, visit www.uktransplant.org.uk or call the Organ Donor Line on 0845 60 60 400.

RIP, Charlie

IT IS not everyday the Prime Minister takes time to pay tribute to someone who has died.

Gordon Brown's words this week about the outstanding service of Charles Young are testament to the high regard in which the veteran Labour member was held.

He will be mourned by those who knew him, not only his party colleagues but those of all political stripes and within the community he was devoted to. Rest in peace, Charlie.

OPINION: Time to end the violence

Hamas must stop its bombing, argues DR STEPHEN LADYMAN

PEOPLE in Kent get worked up when the French go on strike and we get lorries backed up on our roads.

Imagine how much more angry we'd get if they were firing missiles at us and no-one did anything to stop them!

Yet this is what the people who live in Sderot, an ordinary town in Israel, experience day in and day out from their neighbours.

Sderot is not a military town, it offers no strategic targets and it has not been built on occupied or disputed territory.

The only 'crimes' the people of Sderot have committed are that they are Israelis who live in Israel but close to the Gaza border and that is sufficient for Hamas, who control Gaza, and their allies such as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigade to target them for destruction.

The people of Sderot are most vulnerable at home, so many missiles are fired at them during the night for maximum psychological impact.

Their schools and public buildings are partially reinforced by concrete blocks but they are at risk when they are out in the open so the terrorists step up the frequency of missile attacks during the school run.

Bus shelters are reinforced and used as bomb shelters because when the air raid siren goes you have less than 15 seconds to find a safe place to hide.

And in the police station yard there are racks, four deep, all around the car park piled high with the spent remains of missiles and mortars that landed on the town.

Bizarrely, they are 'decorated' with the colours of the organisations that fire them.

Everywhere there are houses that have been hit. When I visited last week with Ivan Lewis, the MP for Bury South, one small family house had the roof blown off and the inside gutted.

Picture: NAONI TOMASINI

MISSILE: Dr Ladyman in Sderot

Thankfully, two young children and their disabled grandmother, who were inside watching television when the missile struck, all survived.

The walls of the infant school are pocked with saucer-sized holes caused by shrapnel from a missile that only just missed the school.

Even on the sunniest day the children play indoors in case they can't reach the shelter of the building when the siren sounds.

Their paintings express their fear with daubs of red and black, or pictures of rockets falling from the sky and in one case a plea, in Hebrew, that reads "We have had enough, our blood is not second class".

Whatever provocation the people who fire these missiles may feel they have suffered, whatever actions they think they are avenging or whatever cause they believe they are promoting, nothing justifies what they are doing to Sderot.

The Israelis withdrew from Gaza and left it entirely to the Palestinian people as part of the peace process so these actions cannot even be justified any longer on the grounds of trying to establish Gaza as part of the Palestinian homeland.

The Palestinian Authority, based on the West Bank, simply does not have the power to stop what the terrorists are doing in Gaza.

I met its Prime Minister, Dr Salam Fayaad, and was genuinely impressed by his unambiguous determination to build a Palestinian nation that will peacefully co-exist with Israel but even he admitted he did not have security forces that are strong enough to intervene in Gaza and stop what Hamas are doing, much as he would like to.

Recently Egypt has been trying to negotiate a ceasefire and even President Carter has tried to intervene, but unless the terrorists in Gaza stop, and stop now, Israel will have to respond.

What Hamas and its allies are doing is unjustifiable, it is repulsive and it is beyond any sane justification.

The entire people of the world, whatever we think of Middle Eastern politics, should demand the violence stops but I suspect our pleas will fall on deaf ears.

I only hope that when you next read about Sderot it is not in the wake of the school I visited being destroyed while the children were playing inside.

• ***Dr Stephen Ladyman is Labour MP for Thanet South.***

Advertisement Feature

Comfort & Care in later life at a fraction of the cost

The fearsome cost of staying in a residential home has rarely been out of the headlines this year.

Fees have risen to a level many people cannot afford – even with help from the family.

But in Darwin Court there is now a real alternative, combining all the advantages of owning your own home with 24-hour support and a hotel-quality lifestyle.

It's called Assisted Living – and it could leave you or your family better off by an astonishing £140,000 or more compared to the cost of an extended stay in a residential home.

Instead of paying fees for living and bed space, residents at Darwin Court own their self-contained apartment while enjoying the services of staff on duty around the clock, a waitress-service restaurant and domestic as well as personal assistance that can be tailored to your individual needs.

McCarthy & Stone has calculated that Assisted Living can preserve most of your capital unlike a residential or rest home where the fees are a heavy and constant drain. Furthermore, Assisted Living involves no loss of independence or status as a home-owner.

Anyone with £250,000 to invest from the sale of their house, and a disposable income of £12,500, would find their assets seriously eroded after 10 years of paying £450 a week in a modestly-priced residential home. But in an Assisted Living apartment, you will retain ownership of your apartment and its capital value which together with your other financial assets could have grown to £300,000 - leaving you or your beneficiaries £140,000 or more better off by comparison.

Each well-appointed apartment at the development is a complete home in itself yet is also part of a complex offering a waitress-service restaurant, a laundry room, lifts, domestic help and a 24-hour personal emergency service – all covered by one moderate service charge.

This includes the cost of an hour of domestic assistance every week, offset by a Government attendance allowance that many of the residents at McCarthy & Stone's other Assisted Living developments have been able to claim.

A high level of security has been built in to Darwin Court, with pull-cords in each apartment, smoke and intruder alarms, and a TV security system at the main entrance.

The apartments have either one or two bedrooms, a lounge / dining area with fittings at a convenient height, a fully-equipped kitchen, a bathroom with bath and level access shower, and full wheelchair access.

Central to the development is an elegantly furnished residents' lounge, a laundry room, function room and guest suite, while the buildings and gardens are cared for by a maintenance team.

A three course lunch is available at a nominal cost in the waitress-service restaurant and in the event of illness arrangements can be made for meals to be brought to residents' apartments.

Paul Trofimov, Managing Director of McCarthy & Stone's Assisted Living division, said: "By preserving home ownership and independence, it is a major departure from the traditional 'rest home' approach where residents may end up feeling institutionalised and the family impoverished by the cost of fees.

"The advantages of the Assisted Living approach are immediately obvious in an era when the majority of retired people are now owner-occupiers. We believe it is the housing of the future for a significant proportion of the older generation."

Darwin Court, Margate.

Typical Restaurant

For information on Assisted Living apartments at Darwin Court, Margate return the FREEPOST coupon below or call: 01843 226713

Send to: FREEPOST, MCCARTHY & STONE ASSISTED LIVING
(no stamp or address required).
Please send me information on Darwin Court, Margate.

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Address .....

.....

Postcode: .....

Tel: .....

Kent on Sunday 20.4.08

McCARTHY & STONE Assisted Living

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Government must pay

I am grateful to the transport minister Tom Harris for his kind words about the commitment of Kent County Council to find a solution to the chaos of Operation Stack – namely a lorry park which will stop lorries turning the M20 into a giant car park every time they are unable to cross the Channel.

But the minister seems to be standing on the fence on the issue of whether the Government will pay for it.

We have been very clear that while we have produced a solution in the form of a lorry park, and a preferred location, it is now down to the Government to decide how they are going to fund it. The sooner they do, the sooner we can get on with solving this problem permanently.

We have briefed the minister on what we believe is the right funding method – a Britdisc or vignette – which would charge foreign lorries for using UK roads. At the moment they pay nothing and benefit to the tune of about £300 per trip by filling up their fuel tanks abroad, avoiding fuel tax duty.

The Britdisc would create a more level playing field between UK and foreign hauliers, fund road improvements and pay for facilities for the lorries so they don't use our laybys and villages to park overnight. If other people agree, I urge them to sign the following online petition at www.conservativekent.com.

We have provided the solution and the means to pay for it. Now it's down to the Government to make a real commitment to fund it.

Cllr Paul Carter
Kent County Council

Rail freight's the answer

I write to express my concern over the proposed lorry park located between junction 10 and 11 of the M20 in the village of Aldington, and in particular the timing of an advertising campaign led by Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council.

It is difficult to criticise Cllr Carter for advocating a Brit Disc scheme charging foreign lorries using Kent's roads. Leaving aside the legality of such a scheme – KCC knows full well such a scheme would need to be implemented across the whole national motorway network and not just in Kent – I believe the timing of this campaign is highly questionable.

Cllr Carter, when announcing the proposed lorry park, also announced that it would be funded via a Britdisc scheme. It appears Cllr Carter believes that by securing widespread support for the laudable Britdisc he will be able to foist onto Kent residents his three desired lorry parks with little objection.

I would suggest Cllr Carter and the Kent Conservatives would be better placed seeking a more sensible solution to the increasing problem of foreign lorries on our roads, such as greater use of rail freight, and to Operation Stack, such as no-strike agreements with cross-Channel operators.

Matt Baldwin
Aldington

Get me to New York

I read with great interest Councillor Paul Carter's opinion on making more use of Kent International and could not agree more with his comments.

The new 'open skies' agreement between the United States and Europe has opened up both markets like never before.

I for one hope it will not be too long before airlines start using Kent International for transatlantic traffic. EOS has shown there is a market between Luton and New York, American Airlines operate two flights a day from Stansted, and Delta and Zoom now fly to JFK from Gatwick – surely this is proof enough of the potential for KIA and the Americas.

I for one, would be more than happy to use Kent International instead of the long trip from Heathrow to Whitstable several times a year.

Surely the management of Kent International can sell the airport for the American market offering flights to places people would like to visit like New York, Las Vegas, LA and San Francisco – which has, I would venture to suggest slightly more allure than Virginia.

Roy M Beagley
Danbury
Connecticut

Protect the peninsula

Cllr Paul Carter was right to point out the disadvantages of a floating airport in the Thames Estuary which would be expensive to construct and damaging to a location which is a Special Protection Area under the European Union's Bird Directive and the fourth most significant site for birds in the UK, home to around 200,000 birds during the winter season.

He is also right to make the case for a viable alternative to the construction of a new airport and that is the use of the Kent International Airport on the Isle of Thanet.

I also made many of these arguments during our campaign against a proposed airport at Cliffe in Medway some five years ago.

Certainly if an airport is again proposed for Medway we will fight to defeat it.

But we should bear in mind that the airport is not the only threat facing the Thames Estuary and adjacent Hoo Peninsula. New plans have come to light to construct a tunnel linking Medway and Essex, with conjoining roads and rail services. Such a project would be expensive and fail to move heavy traffic in the northerly direction it needs to travel. Importantly it would also radically alter an area of natural and cultural significance.

I have met representatives from the tunnel promoters, who failed to convince me that they would preserve the unique character of the Peninsula. Instead, their proposals would mean losing an area of unparalleled natural beauty and scientific significance and irrevocably disrupt community life in the area.

This is not to say that a new crossing across the Thames should not be considered, but there are more suitable locations than the Hoo Peninsula. Medway Council is willing to work with both Essex and Kent County Councils to investigate the possibility of a lower Thames Crossing. We need a crossing that will meet the economic and transport needs of the South East but not proposals that would sacrifice the Hoo Peninsula without any apparent gains.

Cllr Rodney Chambers
Leader of the Conservative Group
Medway Council

NHS failing to deliver

So according to David Shortt, the £1.6 million given to the Kent NHS hospital staff in bonuses is a small sum of money.

I wonder if Mr Shortt read and digested the letter following his from Mrs L Carter of Gillingham, who makes many valid points concerning this, which is the taxpayers' money.

When a company such as the one that I work for doesn't deliver the goods, I certainly wouldn't expect a bonus.

Neil Shaxted
Sittingbourne

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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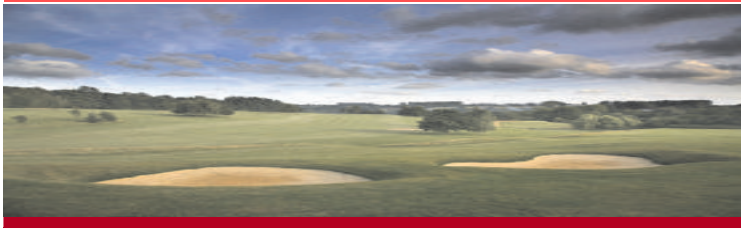

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements In partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ANSBRO
Chloe born on 11th April 2008, weighing 8lbs 11oz. Daughter to Maria and David and baby sister to Lauren in Maidstone.

AVELING
Olivia born on 7th April 2008, weighing 7lbs 13oz. Daughter to Liz and Kelvin in Margate. A sister for Jessica.

BARTHOLOMEW
Tyrone, Liz and Connor are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Alisha Joy on 12th April 2008 weighing 7lb 5oz.

BEARDAH
Alison and Matthew Beardah of Larkfield celebrate the birth of their son Maxwell Samuel James Beardah on 8th April 2008, weighing 7lb 12oz.

BENT
Charles Lewis Bent was born on the 10th April 2008 to his delighted parents James and Louise. Charlie was born at 1.55am and weighed 8lb 7oz, he is a brother to Alex and Micki.

BURR
Chris and Nik are the proud parents of their beautiful daughter Amelia. Born at Pembury Hospital on 31st March 2008 at 3.54pm, weighing 6lb 7oz.

BURT-DAVIES
Niamh Isabella born on 25th March 2008,weighing 6lb 5oz. Daughter to Guy and Chelsey in Pegwell.Welcome sister to Tegan.

BYRNE
Lucy born on 3rd April 2008, weighing 7lb 7oz. Daughter to Jacquie Birch and Andrew Byrne and sister to Alice. Born in Maidstone.

CHAMPION-BEAMENT
Betty Beament is the proud Grandmother to Jazmine Rea Champion-Beament born on Wednesday 12th March 2008 at 5.14pm in Maidstone Hospital.

COGGER
Lacey Mae born on 29th March 2008, weighing 8lb. Daughter to Sam and Martin in Maidstone. Sister to Jaydon, Harley and Charley.

CONN
Maja and Nathanael Conn of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Laura Helen Conn on 4th April 2008.

DECAUX
Charlotte Willis and Kane DeCaux of Staplehurst celebrate the birth of their daughter Lilly Kate DeCaux on 2nd april 2008.

DIMMOCK
Teddy Michael our gorgeous boy born on 19th March 2008 weighing 8lb 7oz Son to Paul Dimmock and Kelly Crabb.

DURLING
Liam Durling born on 9th April 2008, weighing 8lb. Son to Alan and Tracey and brother to Lucas of Maidstone.

ELS
Jaques and Natalie of Whitstable, celebrate the birth of their son, Patrick Matthew Els on 28th March 2008.

ESTEVE
Philippe and Kerry celebrate the birth of their daughter Anais on 22nd March 2008. Welcome sister to Louis and Amaris.

EVANS
Dan and Sophie Evans of Cowden proudly announce the birth of their daughter Matilda Emily Elizabeth Evans born 25th March 2008 weighing 8lb 8oz.

GRANT
Charles Robert Grant born on 2nd April 2008, weighing 7lb 15oz. Son to Mark and Vicky Grant in Kings Hill.

HADLOW
Edward and Dawn of Herne Bay are proud to announce the birth of their son Fletcher. Fletcher was born on 19th March 2008 and weighed 6lb 12oz.

HALL
Terry and Meinir Hall are pleased to announce the birth of their son Tomos at 1.23pm on the 7th April 2008 weighing 7lb 8oz. A brother for Mari.

HICKMOTT
Alan and Katy of Tunbridge Wells are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Lana Sophia Hickmott born on the 3rd April 2008 weighing 7lb.

HILLS
Debbie and Rhys of Aylesham are proud to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby daughter Lillia Margaret.

HUCKSTEP
Tanya and Ian Huckstep of Whitstable, celebrate the birth of Erin Marie on 13/03/2008.

HUSSAIN
Jaicob Rafeek born 4th April 2008 weighing 8lb 11oz, son to Johnny and Nhaylene Hussain Brother to Jayden and Jarred.

INGRAM
Rob and Emma are delighted to announce the arrival of their gorgeous son Riley Jay Ingram. He was born on the 8th April 2008 at 7.39 am and weighed a healthy 7lb 40z. He is a total delight to his parents and family.

KEMP
Dan and Jenny of Edenbridge are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Abigail Kemp born 22nd March 2008 weighing 8lb 10oz.

KNIGHT
Harrison James Knight born on 12th April 2008, weighing 6lb 14oz. Beautiful son to Hayley and Darren of Maidstone.

LEWIS
Natasha and Steven of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Louie James Lewis on 9th April 2008.

MILLINSON
Owen Lee Jake born on 7th April 2008, weighing 9lb 6oz. Son to Donna and Stefan in Margate. A brother to Chloe and Jake.

MOODY
Evie Mai born on 29th March 2008, weighing 6lb 12oz. Daughter to Karen and Shaun in Ramsgate.

MOORE
Steven and Pauline are delighted to announce the birth of their twin sons Josh Steven and Jake Joseph on 29th February 2008 weighing 6lb 1oz and 4lb 9oz. Brothers to Thomas and Jade.

O'CONNELL
Darren and Amanda of Ramsgate celebrate the births of their twin sons David and Michael O'Connell on 10th March 2008. Love from brother and sisters Emily, Ruby and Tommy.

PANNELL
Kevan and Claire Pannell of Edenbridge are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Lily Rose born 30th March 2008 weighing 6lb 15oz.

PEARCE
Lana Morgan born on 1st April 2008, weighing 4lb 11oz. Daughter to Julie and Andrew in Ramsgate.

PURDY
Tegan Kaye Doris born on fourth April 2008, weighing 6lb 4oz. Daughter to Ian and Claire Purdy in Ramsgate. A sister for Tyler Daniel.

SANDS
To Brian and Leanne (nee Ackland) of Herne Bay a beautiful son, Dylan Edward, born on 18th March 2008. Dylan weighed 7lb 1oz.

SHAW
Dean and Cheryl celebrate the birth of their twin daughters Chanelle and Rhianna born on 3rd April 2008.

STAPLES
Paul and Alison of Whitstable are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ethan Charles, on 31st March 2008.

SWINERD ROBERTS
Marley Jay born on 27th March 2008 weighing 5lbs 12ozs. Son to Chris Roberts and Tracy Swinerd.

THORPE
Luke and Emma of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Brandon on 4th April 2008. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

UPCHER-COUSINS
Alexander Peter George born on 26th February 2008, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to Donna and Mark in Ramsgate. Welcome brother to Tanith and Rowan.

WICKHAM
Dean and Lauren are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Lyla Joy Wickham, who was born at 3.30pm on the 4th April 2008 and weighed 7lb 3oz.

WIFFEN
Thomas and Samantha of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter Summer-Louise on 7th April 2008. Mummy and Daddys little princess.

YATES
Felicity and Steve of Minster are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Libby Louise, born on 5th April 2008 at QEQM, Margate.

DEATHS

ALLEN
Henry Roy Allen of Walmer passed away peacefully on 9th April 2008.A much loved dad and grandad who will be very sadly missed.

ARNOLD
Betty passed away peacefully at home on 10th April 2008. Please contact Lyons of Canterbury for the funeral arrangements.

COUCHMAN
Kathleen Couchman of Maidstone died peacefully on 12th April 2008. Her Funeral Service will be at Blue Bell Hill Crematorium at 1:40pm on 29th April.

CROWHURST
Thomas Stephen Crowhurst (Tom) of Crayford passed away peacefully on 5th April 2008 after a short illness. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral to be held on 21st April at 2pm St Paulinus Church Crayford followed by cremation at Eltham Crematorium. Enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare Dartford.

DAVIES
Keith Thompson Davies of Sutton Valence died peacefully on 31st March 2008. Funeral service at Sutton Valence Church at 11.30am on 22nd April 2008. All enquiries to A.W. Court of Grafty Green on 01622 850840.

DONNELLY
Norma Donnelly of Westgate-on-Sea,passed away peacefully after a long illness on 31st March 2008,aged 67.Beyond the gate you will find happiness and rest,and there is comfort in the thought that you will remain close to us.

GASSON
Grace Edith Gasson of Canterbury passed away peacefully after a short illness on 5th April 2008. Loving mum to Jan, Sue and Dee and much loved Nan to Mark, Richenda, Lee, Nathaniel, Luke and Jason.She will be very sadly missed by all who knew her.The funeral took place at Barham on Friday 11th April.If desired donations to Cancer Research UK.

GRANT
Robert Allan Grant of Dunkirk passed away peacefully on 9th April 2008 at the Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury. A beloved husband and loving father who will be very sadly missed.Funeral enquiries to John Kemp, St Dunstans, Canterbury. Family flowers only but if desired donations to the Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

HEWITT
Olive Hewitt of Herne Bay (formerly of Canterbury) passed away after a long period of ill health, on 12th April 2008, at Elliot House Herne Bay. Re-united with her beloved husband Alf and two sons Bill and Peter.Loving mum to Helen and Maureen.A much loved grandmother and great grandmother. Rest in peace mum.For funeral details please contact Welch.

HINDS.
John Frederick Hinds of Ditton passed away peacefully after a long illness on 10th April 2008, aged 69.

HOBBS.
David Eric Hobbs of Ditton passed away peacefully after a short illness on 5th April 2008 aged 55.

HOLLIS
Elsie died on 11th April 2008 at Kent and Sussex Hospital. Sadly missed by Family and Friends.

HOWES
Mary Dorothy Formerly of Hythe Kent passed away on the 11th April 2008.

HUBBLE
Ann Louise Hubble of Boughton under Blean, formerly of Dover, passed away suddenly after a short illness on 13th April 2008. Beloved wife of Bob and much loved mum to daughters Amber and Tiffany.Loving Nan to Aaron and Casey.She will be very sadly missed.Funeral enquiries to Hogben.

LEADBEATTER
Kate passed away peacefully after a long illness on the 9th April 2008. Missed by all.

LOVETT
Alan Douglas Lovett of Hawkinge passed away peacefully at home on 11th April 2008.A loving husband, much loved dad and Pops.He will be very sadly missed. Funeral enquiries to Chittendens of Folkestone.

MONK
Lillian May who slipped away 13/04/2008 aged 98 years. A dearly loved Mum, Sister, Auntie and Granny to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by all her family and many caring friends. Funeral service at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium Monday 21st April at 9.30. Flowers or donations to the British Heart Foundation may be sent C/o Southborough Funeral Service, 126a London Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0PL. Tel 01892 539744.

NORTON
Helen passed away on 12 April 2008 after a long illness. She will be greatly missed by family and friends. Donations for Pilgrims Hospice to Farriers of Dover.

PALMER
James Francis Palmer of Lower Hardres passed away peacefully on 9th April 2008.Much loved by family and friends.The funeral was held at St Marys Church, Lower Hardres on Thursday 17th April 2008.

PAYTON
Marcia Vera Eugenie Payton of Whitstable passed away peacefully on 9th April 2008. A much loved mother and grandmother who will be greatly missed.

ROBBINS
Patricia Robbins of Canterbury (formerly of Tunbridge Wells) passed away after a long illness on 8th April 2008.The funeral took place at Barham on Friday 18th April 2008.

SEXTON
James Sexton of Larkfield passed away peacefully on 11th April 2008. Enquiries to Doves Funerals at Larkfield 01732 871188.

THOMAS
Frank Arthur William Thomas of Boughton, passed away suddenly on 5th April 2008. Loving dad to Pat, Ann, Margaret, Michael, Fay, Gill, Pamela and Martin. A much loved grandad and great grandad. Reunited with his beloved Betty. The funeral was held on Friday 18th April at Love Lane Cemetery.

TWYMAN
Margaret, aged 84, passed away peacefully on 6th April 2008 at The Brabourne Care Centre Ashford. The family wish to thank the staff of the Brabourne Care Centre for their kindness and care in looking after Margaret, who will be sadly missed.

WARNETT
Emily Marion (Peggy) died peacefully in her own bed on 8th April 2008 aged 94. Sadly missed by all her family and friends.

WATTS
Thelma Watts passed away peacefully on 4th April 2008. A loved one is not gone, until they are forgotten. And to live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

WEIR
Ada Weir of Dover died after a long illness, born with dignity and cheerfulness, on 9th April 2008. Loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Re-united with John. The funeral took place at Barham on Wednesday April 16th.

WELLS
Raymond Alfred Wells of Birchington passed away peacefully after a short illness on 11th April 2008, aged 76.

WHIBLEY
Colin Whibley of Maidstone died peacefully at home on 15th April 2008. Funeral service at Vinters Crematorium at 12.30pm on 23rd April 2008. Enquiries to Birds Funeral Directors on 01622 692949.

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The hotel is a short journey from Victoria station and at the end of the A40, just outside the congestion zone and has its own underground car park.

To enter the competition, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Hilton Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. No purchase is necessary. For our full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk or for a posted copy call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. Closing date is May 2, 2008.

• Question: what is the name of the acclaimed restaurant on the 23rd floor?

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Groundwork for outdoor careers

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

FUTURE groundsmen and women from across the country are being given the chance to take part in an expert class at a Kent college.

As the domestic cricket season begins, 12 groundskeeping apprentices got the chance to hone their skills as part of an initiative between the Learning and Skills Council and Hadlow College in Tonbridge.

Groundsmen are responsible for maintaining the 53,000 sports fields across the country.

A cricket pitch takes up to 10 hours a week to prepare for a one-day match.

Jonathan Gillie, an apprentice groundsman from Hadlow College, which teaches qualifications for land-based industries, said: "I have always been a big sports fan and I love working outdoors. I really feel that if I keep my head down and work hard there are great opportunities for me in this career."

Eddie Seaward, head groundsman at Wimbledon, was awarded an MBE but the work of groundskeeping staff largely goes unsung, says the Institute of Groundsmanship (IoG).

Mr Gillie, 23, who works in Sittingbourne, said: "Doing the apprenticeship means I'm getting great hands-on training from my employer while being paid, as well as getting support from Hadlow."

The expert class will give the apprentices the skills they need to prepare and maintain a cricket pitch.

This includes ensuring that pitches are well aerated and best ground conditions have been created for a match.

The IoG is trying to raise the profile of groundskeeping as a career.

The master class at Hadlow aims to inspire the apprentices by demonstrating the quality of skills needed at a world-class level.

Tony Allen, area director of the LSC for Kent and Medway, said: "With the 2012 Olympics fast approaching as well as a consistent rise in the amount of land being turned into sports fields every year, this is a very opportune time for young people to enter the groundskeeping profession."

Grounds managers can expect a salary of around £40,000.

Mike Dodd, work-based learning manager at Hadlow and a former head groundsman, said: "The apprenticeship provides a solid stepping stone for progression within the groundsman's career structure, providing an introduction to everything from how to mow, to how to grow.

"The apprentices also earn while they learn, spending the majority of their training on the job, building up their practical skills."

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Leadership campaign

YOUNG campaigners in Kent have been invited to take part in an initiative run by an international organisation.

Aimed at people over 18 with a social conscience, the free Frontrunner programme will explore the leadership potential of participants.

Julia Middleton, chief executive of Common Purpose – the organisation running the programme – said: "All too often, work pressures erode the passion and capacity in young people to lead and effect change on the issues they care about, so it is vital they take time at the beginning of their careers to consider how they can continue to grow as leaders."

The young people taking part in the training courses will look at a diverse range of organisations and the problems they face working with people already leading change in society, she said.

There are 40 places available on each programme from July 7-10 and September 1-4.

Apply at www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home/programmes/frontrunner.aspx or on 020 7608 8148.

CONSTRUCTION students have won awards for their environmentally friendly design ideas. The young people had been working on designs for the refurbishment of facilities at Bromley College of Further and Higher Education as part of their coursework. BC Construction was the team that won overall and was praised for its cost-efficient design for the main hall.

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Campaigns Managers (two posts)

Visit Kent is the official tourism marketing body for Kent. We are a public/private sector marketing partnership with over 75 stakeholders supporting Kent's £2.1bn visitor economy.

We are seeking two energetic and experienced Campaigns Managers to join the marketing team based in Canterbury. Working as part of a small team we need a Manager with website management and development experience to oversee our electronic marketing activity and another Manager with PR and media relations experience and ideally exhibitions experience, to oversee our PR and exhibitions programme. Both will have their own campaigns to run and be part of the marketing strategy and delivery team in support of Visit Kent's investors and the tourism industry in Kent. A passion for Kent and enthusiasm for destination marketing and partnership working is essential.

Salary £26,000 p.a.

Visit www.visitkent.co.uk/business for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 22nd April 2008

Interviews to be held on 28th April & 2nd May in Canterbury.
This advertisement first appeared on 9th April 2008.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the District and Borough Councils, Tourism South East and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.

visit Kent

AEM

AEM, with its head office at Stansted Airport, is a subsidiary of the American corporation AMETEK Inc. As part of AMETEK's Aerospace & Defense Division, AEM is one of the largest independent accessory maintenance facilities in Europe. Our Ramsgate site is a long-established aircraft component repair and overhaul facility and has the following full-time vacancy

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to assist with bathing clients within the Centre. Previous experience and NVQ Level 2 in Care an advantage although training will be provided. Hours of work 10 per week.

CATERING ASSISTANT

to help with the extension of our Fresh Meal Delivery Service to incorporate an Asian menu. This position would suit someone with a good knowledge of Asian home cooking. Hours of work 12 per week, to incorporate some weekends.

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Please apply in writing with a current CV and details of your salary expectations to the HR Department, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Clipper Boulevard West, Crossways, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6PT or e mail it to remel.recruitment@thermofisher.com

The closing date for application is Midday Friday 25 April 2008.

Stour Centre

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Part Time Bookings Officer – Stour Centre – Hourly Rate up to £7.47
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You must enjoy working with the public, have exceptional customer service skills and be able to work under pressure in a busy environment. Experience in a similar role is desirable.

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Candidates should have good health and safety knowledge, be familiar with COSHH regulations and have worked within the cleaning industry. The hours are varied and will include evenings and weekends.

For an informal discussion please contact the Stour Centre office on 01233 667121 and ask for Kirsty Ferguson.

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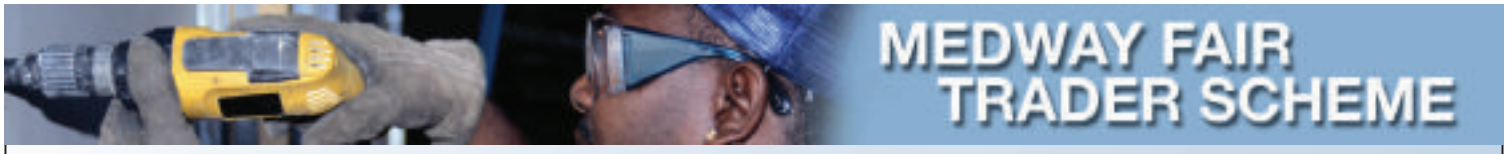

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Run rabbit, run

Keep unwanted pests out of your garden and away from precious plants

By JANE JEWITT

INEDIBLE: Rabbits don't like eating clematis

LITTLE fluffy bunny rabbits, with their cute little white button tails and big floppy ears. Have you ever seen anything so cute?

Well, there is nothing cute about rabbits in a vegetable garden, or in an ornamental garden either for that matter. They could dig for Britain.

They destroy over £100 million of crops every year in the UK. The average rabbit warren extends to 300 metres and houses 100 rabbits. Their lifespan is three years, although 90 per cent die within their first year as they have many natural predators. Cats, foxes and stoats take mature rabbits and the young are taken by buzzards, badgers and weasels.

If we are troubled by rabbits, the family cat is unlikely to be able to deal with them for us.

Rabbits are curious creatures and the only way they can decide whether they like your new bedding scheme is to taste it. If they don't like the taste of the shoots they may start on the roots. Once they have nibbled the growing tips off or done a little bit of digging, all your hard work in the border will have been wasted.

In fact, in the ornamental border there are very many plants that will be safe from rabbits. If it is impractical to protect each and every plant with a cloche or wire netting the alternative is to choose plants that rabbits don't tend to eat. I hesitate to say any plant is rabbit-proof, as they can try almost anything.

Aromatic

The foliage of aromatic plants such as lavender, rosemary, artemesia, rue and geranium has a smell that rabbits find unpleasant. Generally speaking, woody shrubs, especially evergreens, will be safe from rabbit damage. Clematis, fuchsia, sunflower, honeysuckle aster, hellebore, dahlia, verbena, daffodil, cyclamen and hardy orchids are just a few plants that are listed as distasteful to rabbits.

I have a basic rule to protect anything newly planted in a garden. Slugs and snails, as well as rabbits and other wildlife will all be curious to know what the new plants are, and to try and taste them, before going back to their usual diet.

But it is the vegetable patch, and in particular, carrots, that rabbits like best of all. You may find it necessary to fence around the complete vegetable garden.

Rabbit-proof fencing consists of galvanised wire mesh of 31mm gauge, which is fine enough to stop the smallest rabbit. It needs to be one metre high and, crucially, extend underground in an outward-facing curve so that when a rabbit starts to dig his way into your garden the underground mesh stops him.

So with a little planning and adaptation there is no need for your garden to be lacking in colour or interest all through the season even if rabbits do come and visit you from time to time.

FRESH: Radish 'Amethyst' adds colour

Reap what

Join the increasing numbers of people benefitting from growing their own vegetables

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

NOT since the war years has vegetable growing been so popular, as gardeners turn their talents to producing more of their own food for better flavour and better health.

Sales of vegetable seeds continue to outstrip those of flowers. Last year there was a seven per cent increase in the sales of vegetable seeds, according to the Horticultural Trades Association, which represents the UK garden industry.

This year looks like having a similar outcome, according to some of the big seed companies.

"Once again the early indications are that vegetable seeds sales will outperform flowers," says Catherine Matthews, product manager at Unwins.

"The popular varieties are fairly conventional vegetables, indicating that the Jamie Oliver effect is continuing and people are growing their own food for both the improved taste and health benefits."

Francijn Suermondt, marketing co-ordinator for Suttons, says that in some regions Suttons seed sales ratios are 70 per cent veg to 30 per cent flowers, while Dobies mail order sales ratios so far for 2008 are 74 per cent veg to 26 per cent flowers.

"Seed packets are now featuring recipe cards, while speedy season veg give quick results and this is all influencing sales as well," she says.

Anyone visiting their garden centre for inspiration will find acres of seed packets promising wonderful harvests of succulent veg – but which do you choose?

Best performers

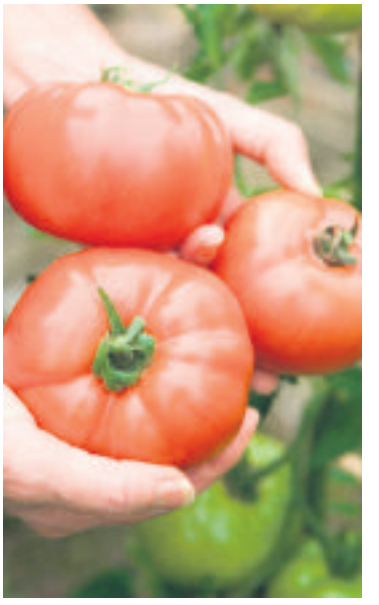
New varieties are coming on to the market every year – but are they any better than tried and tested types?

Results of trials of new vegetables, revealed in the latest issue of Gardeners' Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, show the best of the bunch.

Samples of more than 30 new vegetable varieties were trialled last year before they were available to buy.

The best performers included Courgette 'Tristan' (Thompson & Morgan), which produced large vigorous plants and a heavy crop of typical dark green tasty fruits, and Radish 'Amethyst' (Dobies, Marshalls, Mr Fothergill's), a new 'purple' type, best picked small, with a dark red skin which will add fantastic colour to your salad bowl.

Other winners in the test included the large-fruited tomato 'Country Taste' (Thompson &



SMOOTH: Tomato 'Country Taste'

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Morgan), which produced some huge, smooth fruits weighing up to 500g, and the cherry tomatoes 'Piccolo' (Dobies – plants; The Organic Gardening Catalogue; Suttons – plants) and 'Apero' (Dobies – seeds and plants; Suttons – plants), which cropped from August to September in the greenhouse. Both had tougher skins than supermarket cherry tomatoes, but made up for this with intense sweet and sharp flavour.

Carrot 'Tendersnax' (Thompson & Morgan), a new, early, sweet carrot, proved a winner with nearly 600 triallists. From an April sowing most harvested from mid-July to mid-August, averaging around 2kg from a 2m row. Some 80 per cent of triallists rated the flavour good or very good.

Lettuce 'Marshall' (Marshalls, Suttons) was a beautiful, decorative lettuce, great when paired with another new variety, 'Ashbrook' (Unwins). The red leaves turned deep purple, almost black when mature, but they bolted rapidly last summer. The taste was good, with just a hint of bitterness and kept well in the fridge and considered worth growing as cut-and-come-again or baby leaf salad.

Dobies: 0844 701 7625, www.dobies.co.uk; Marshalls 01480 443390, www.marshalls-seeds.co.uk; Mr Fothergill's 0845 166 2511, mr-fothergills.co.uk; Suttons 0844 9220606, www.suttons.co.uk; The Organic Gardening Catalogue 0845 130 1304, www.organiccatalog.co.uk; Thompson & Morgan 01473 695225, www.thompson-morgan.co.uk; Unwins 01480 443395, www.unwinsdirect.co.uk

• Gardening Which? is a subscription-only gardening magazine. For details on how to receive three issues of Gardening Which? for £3, telephone 01992 822800 or visit which.co.uk.

BEAUTIFUL: Lettuce 'Marshall'

SWEET: Carrot 'Tendersnax' has proved to be a winner following hundreds of trials

Chilli power

IF you want to grow something that's going to spice up your food and brighten up your greenhouse later in the year, then try sowing some chilli peppers indoors now. They need a sunny spot and high temperatures so are best grown in a greenhouse under the same conditions as tomatoes or cucumbers.

Seeds should be sown at 20C (68F) in pots or modules of seed compost. The really hot varieties can take a month to germinate so they should be sown in late winter. Milder ones can be sown in early spring and transferred into 9cm (3 1/2in) pots when big enough and then grown on at 18C (65F). When the plants are 20cm (8in) tall, pinch out the tips to promote bushiness. If you want lots of small chillis, pinch out the sideshoots again later on. When the roots fill the pot, the plants can be transferred to 30cm (12in) tubs or growbags. If you are planting out, harden them out in early summer.

Plants can be trained up canes and should be fed regularly with a general fertiliser until flowers form. They can be picked before they are ripe, or left on the plant until they change colour, although you won't get as many fruits if you leave them too long. Hot varieties include Thai Dragon, a red type, and the jalapeno pepper Summer Heat, which is milder.

SPICY: Red chilli pepper plant

ADDEDVALUE: Sarah Beeny

First impressions

Property expert Sarah Beeny explains why a front garden can be a big selling point

By CHRIS MURPHY

A NEAT, pretty garden at the front of a house will send values soaring, according to Channel 4 property expert Sarah Beeny.

Making the effort with the way the front of a home looks will help the property beat the current trend of falling prices by making the most of its assets, she said.

The Children's Society Garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show is due to explore ways to capitalise on this space while helping the environment – propping up your house value and giving children an area they can enjoy and explore.

Attractive

Sarah Beeny said: "There's no doubt a great looking front garden makes your property more attractive and easier to sell and it might even increase the value."

Recent figures from the Halifax show that UK house prices have fallen 2.5 per cent in the last month, although prices in the South East remained stable.

With the average price of a house in the South East currently £258,529, having a well-kept and attractive front garden could make the difference to buyers.

According to propertyfinder.com home buyers and sellers believe that a garden can add as much as 17 per cent to the value of a property, while nearly three quarters of people said they would be instantly attracted to a property that had a well-tended front garden.

Nicholas Leeming, director of propertyfinder.com, said: "A well-tended garden is the ultimate value add."

The Children's Society Garden sits in front of a contemporary house façade and uses vertical features to make the most of its small plot. Water gently flows down a basalt wall, flanked by living walls; dry plants at the top and wet thriving plants at the bottom.

Two large saphora japonica trees overlap giving dappled shade under umbrella-pruned canopies. Secure vertical bicycle storage is provided under a cantilevered porch. The garden is encircled by a low fence and a variety of long grasses. Gravels prevent water run off from the garden, allowing water to return to the ground. This practical design provides a microcosm for birds and insects and incorporates discreet water harvesting and waste and recycling bin storage.

Designer Mark Gregory said: "This is a garden with children and families at its heart. This design proves that you can have a practical, usable space and be environmentally responsible. The Children's Society Garden is a garden for future generations. We're making front gardens green again."

Beeny said: "The Children's Society Garden combines great design with environmental responsibility and shows how to create a space to spend time with the kids."

• **The Chelsea Flower Show runs from May 20-24.**

ECO-FRIENDLY: The Children's Society Garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show

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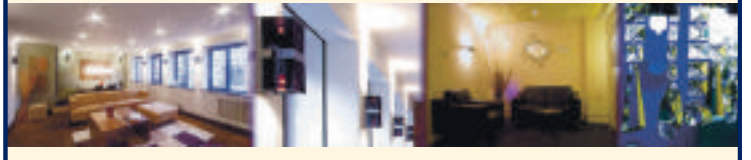

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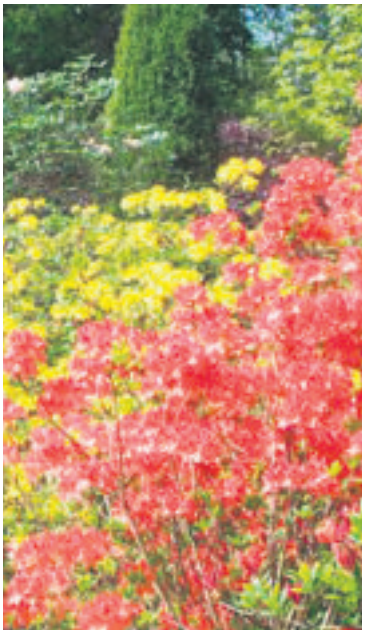
Historical gardens bloom for the public once again



A TROUBLED and chequered past has not stopped one of the finest garden jewels in Kent's crown from opening once more to the public.

By CHRIS MURPHY

Sandling Park has seen action from enemy bombers to the catastrophic hurricane of 1987. But the vast landscape wonder is open to be admired once more.

The original house was built by Bonomi, an Italian architect in 1796, but was destroyed by enemy action in 1942. It was over 50 years before it rose once more.

The main house, which is not open to the public, was designed and built by the architect Quinlan Terry in 1999.

The garden and lawns as they are today were largely constructed by Laurence Hardy when he moved to Sandling in 1897. He realised that rhododendrons and azaleas would flourish in the area and his foresight has now grown into a magnificent 25-acre woodland garden.

Once more, Sandling Park garden was in the wars, and suffered badly in the fateful storm of 1987.

In those few catastrophic hours, more than 200 mature trees crashed down, destroying the beauty surrounding them.

The Hardy family, which now owns the estate, set about the task of recovering from the damage by embarking on a considerable replanting programme.

Many of the replanted rare species were donated by houses and gardens across the country and in 2002, the garden opened tentatively to the public.

It is now in full flourish and the magnificent sight of 25 acres of rhododendrons, azaleas and other acid soil-loving species can be enjoyed.

Visitors will be welcome every Sunday and Wednesday throughout May. Proceeds from one of those days on Sunday 11 will be given to charity through the National Gardens Scheme.

Sadly, the woodland garden is not suitable for wheelchair users and dogs cannot be admitted.

The visitor, for an entrance fee of £4, can wander for hours enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the park.

This is a garden for both the connoisseur and keen amateur alike. The Hardy family and their dedicated team are always working hard to find extra areas of the garden to be explored.

A recently opened area of Sandling Park is known as 'The Mound'. It has been planted with some interesting trees, as well as rhododendrons, following the extensive re-planting. This is an artificial mound, put in when the railway originally came through, to protect the old house from the site and noise of steam trains!

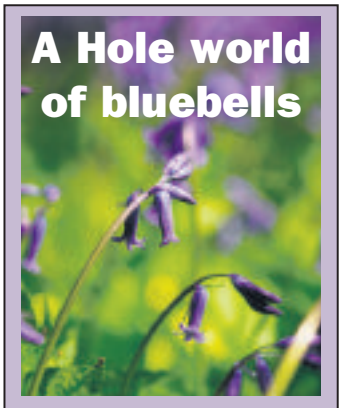
At the end of the walk at the rear lawns, visitors can see the canon balls, which were made at the Low Moor Ironworks in Yorkshire.

No mortar could be made large enough to fire the largest ball, which weighs 1.5 tons.

The Yew Hedge planted in 1900 leads into the Rose Garden, where visitors can see tree paeonies, viburnums and other shrubs.

This exquisite jewel is situated near Hythe, with the entrance off the A20. For those visiting by motorway, they should leave the M20 at Junction 11 and turn east on to the A20 where they will find the entrance is half a mile. An experience full of colour and bloom awaits visitors every Sunday and Wednesday between 10am and 5pm in May.

A Hole world of bluebells



BLUEBELLS abound in Kent and they bloom spectacularly in the gardens of Hole Park, near the pretty Wealden village of Rolvenden, which itself lies between Cranbrook and Tenterden. The bluebells at Hole Park are renowned for their amazing display: a woodland walk takes visitors through the heart of a dedicated one-acre bluebell wood where the scent and sight of these native spring bulbs create a heady atmosphere.

In fact, so special are the bluebells, and other spring flowers including rhododendrons, that Hole Park is especially extending its normal opening times and days to allow visitors to appreciate their full glory. In previous years the gardens have opened for a bluebell weekend, but following the success of an extended Bluebell Fortnight last year, it will open every day for a month between 11am and 6pm for a Bluebell Spring Spectacular, until Sunday, May 11, 2008.

For the rest of the season the gardens are open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 6pm until the end of October, and Sundays from March 23 to June 29 and again on the following Sundays 5, 12, 19 and 26 October 2008.

The website www.holepark.com gives further information or telephone 01580 241344/241386.

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Helle knows how to create the feeling of a sense of space – even if you haven't got the natural space to offer, she can help make your home a comfortable and welcoming space.

Helle offers some expert tips to help brighten up your home.

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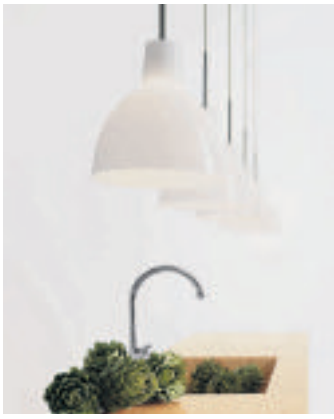

LIGHTEN UP: Louis Poulsen Pendant Lights over work space. £149 stockist www.louispoulsen.com

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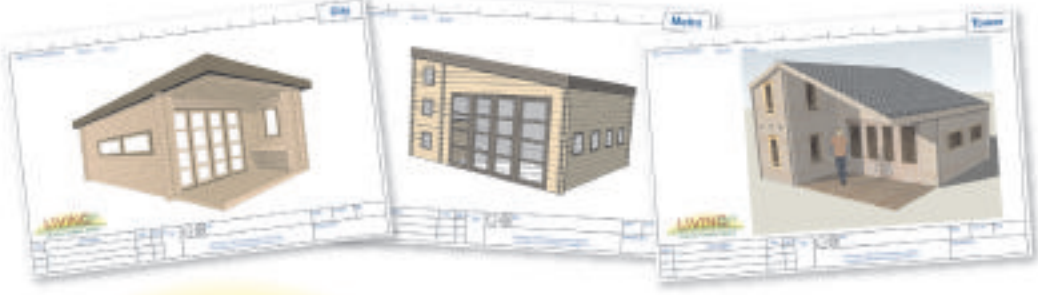

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MAXIMUM relaxation wrapped in thrilling design, Variér Furniture is launching a stunning new chair, Variér Eight. The name relates to the shape and the time we sit down to eat. Eight is ideal for the breakfast bar and its modern design fits perfectly in your kitchen.

It looks equally stylish in bars, cafes and hotels.

Variér Eight is ideal for that quick breakfast or snack but comfortable enough for leisurely lunches and get-togethers. Whereas most kitchen chairs have either great design or comfort, Eight offers both – comfort and innovative design.

Variér believes that the body is made for movement, not passive sitting. The Variér Eight is living design inspired by the human anatomy. The barstool invites you to sit comfortably in perfect harmony with your body. It holds you in its anatomically shaped seat with snug back support to hold you in a natural position. The tilting mechanism moves with you to keep your body utterly relaxed no matter how or how long you sit.

Variér Eight can be adjusted in height, can swivel round and, with its footrest, gives maximum relaxation. It is the essential chair for your kitchen – genuinely innovative and stylish.

Variér Eight is available in leather and fabrics and in more than 200 colours – the base is steel. The Footrest is strong enough for an 18-stone man to stand up right on it and it won't break.

www.varierfurniture.co.uk.

space

Interior designer, Helle Clarke answers a reader's design dilemma

Q We want to create an open plan living area in our house, combining kitchen and family room. We would like a few ideas to get us started. Can you help?

SB, Kent

A Most new builds are designed with a larger scale of open-plan living – because it makes sense to the way we live now. It is an easy way to incorporate designated space for the family computer, the breakfast bar – the informal dining area and an area for anyone to sit back and be part of whatever activities are going on. A lot of people feel that the formal dining room is now obsolete – and go out if they need to entertain on a formal level.

However, most existing houses are not favoured with this design – and it is up to us to facilitate it. These are just a few things to look out for.

Start out with lots of sketches and list which main functions you would like your open-plan area to have.

When you are planning an open-plan space you must carefully consider any walkways. Make sure that work designated space is not crossed and that there is no walk through in relaxation areas.

Most people dislike it when people have to walk behind them. If you compare to dining in a restaurant, you would probably prefer to be seated with your back to the wall than the other way around. Make sure that your open-plan area does not have any uneconomic space – ie that you use the space you have practically. Open-plan spaces can often appear stark and unsettling.

To avoid this you can subdivide with pieces of furniture or screens. If you are incorporating a kitchen it is a great idea to use a row of pendant lights above a work area – as a kind of sub-division.

Also, it is important to let colours make the room get a gentle feel that makes you feel instantly comfortable.Good Luck.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask Helle, please e-mail them to helle.clarke@btconnect.com or post them, marked Homes & Gardens Q & A, to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

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Bring Kylie's touch into your bedroom

A NEW range of bedding by Kylie Minogue has gone on sale.

Kylie at Home is a collection of luxury bed linen and bedroom accessories designed by the Australian pop star.

The collection ranges from elegant and sophisticated to sexy and sparkling, said House of Fraser at Bluewater.

Julie Miller-Sensini, head of buying for home ware at House of Fraser, said: "Kylie at Home looks set to become one of the hottest new brands of 2008. The designs are really glamorous and customers are going to love bringing a bit of pop star glitz into the home."

Thankfully, you won't need a pop star wage to afford the bedding. With the Box Diamond selection, the duvet cover is from £65; pillowcase from £12; throw £110; 45cm X 45cm feather cushion £18; rhinestone cushion £30; and ribbon cushion £18.

With the Sequins bedding, the duvet cover is from £46; pillowcase from £15; cushion £20 and white glitter throw £125.

This eco-friendly home is just ideal

By CHRIS MURPHY

A KENT company is celebrating major success at the Ideal Homes Show.

Sustainable experts, the Carbon Free Group, based at St Margaret's Bay near Dover, created one of the major attractions at the show – the Eco House.

It was designed to produce an ultra-low carbon footprint by minimising the energy it needs and generating whatever power it does use from renewable sources.

Tens of thousands of people passed through the house during the three-week show, including Housing Minister Caroline Flint.

Carbon Free said she was keen to see some of the technologies and ideas for the kind of homes we will live in in future.

The Palisade House is a single-storey family home built around a central courtyard and includes a kitchen, a dining and sitting room, three bedrooms and two en-suite bathrooms.

The design could easily be split into two separate homes, making it affordable for first-time buyers and families.

They can be constructed and ready to move into in five days – unimaginably fast compared to conventional building construction. The property at the Ideal Homes Show was a demonstration house, so in real life would have more appealing wood cladding, on the outside – and a 'living wall' look of plants growing up the side.

Innovations include the power. The house is designed to minimise energy use, but generate what it does need from photo-voltaic roof panels, tubular steel piles screwed into the ground that draw heat from the ground in winter and store heat in the summer, solar heating panels for hot water and the roof can house a wind turbine.

Inside, its building system is intended to be used in sustainable communities where homes are grouped in clusters. A garden on the rooftop can be used as an allotment.

An Evac vacuum toilet system uses 85 per cent less water than conventional gravity loos. Rainwater is used to flush and touch-free taps make usage efficient along with showers, which have always minimised water use.

Sheep and hemp wool is used for insulation, keeping heat in during winter and out during summer.

The piles the house sits on can be extended to lift it out of floodwater. Building is a relatively low-skill job and a high proportion of the components are either reusable or recyclable.

Flat-pack design of roof, floor, cladding and partition panels – combined with their low weight and small size means low-cost and energy-efficient transport to the building site, said the Carbon Free Group.

The company said the minister and most visitors were impressed that everything in the house is available today and not something for the distant future.

Following the show, the building was transported to Kent to be used as a training centre specialising in sustainable construction. In partnership with Dover District Council and Kent County Council, it is hoped a final location will be agreed very shortly and the building will be fully operational within a matter of months.

Jae Mather, of the Carbon Free Group, added: "The level of interest at the Ideal Home Show was enormous. People are clearly starting to realise that eco-design not only makes sense in terms of addressing climate change, but makes financial sense too.

"Well-designed, highly insulated buildings help protect their users from the steadily increasing costs of electricity and heat. The costs of running this house will be negligible."

The Carbon Free Group consortium says it is dedicated to making carbon free living a reality and enables developers and construction companies to build the kinds of houses required to meet the Government's own target of making sure every new home in the UK is carbon neutral by 2016.

"It's a challenge, but with the running costs of a home like this so small, there is every reason for people to expect their homes to be this efficient," said Mr Mather.

SUSTAINABLE: The outside of the 'green' home

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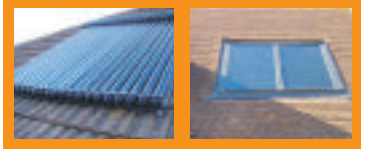

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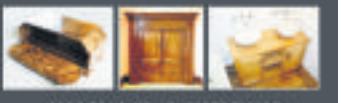

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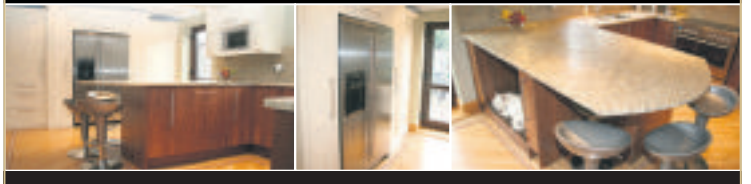

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All posts are subject to enhanced disclosure

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Room supervisor for our Butterfly room (ages 3-4years) must be qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent and have a good Knowledge of the foundation stage.

For an application form please contact
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Kingsmead Road, Canterbury CT1 1SZ
Or email to: **antony.mckean@canterbury.serco.com**
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The successful candidate should be familiar with safe working practices, with at least five years working experience within an Engineering Goods Inward environment. Fork truck licence would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing or e-mail with C.V. to the above.

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Project Worker

Starting salary £17,842 with progression through contribution related pay to £19,572 pro rata
Term-time only, initially funded till 31st August 2009
The Launch Pad, Ramsgate

Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people?

We are seeking to appoint a project worker who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

You will work at The Launch Pad supporting pupils who are serving fixed term exclusions from primary schools with a range of behaviour and learning needs. Experience of working in a school environment and/or working with pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs would be an advantage.

The Launch Pad is funded by the Thanet Behaviour Improvement Programme (BIP) schools and currently serves 18 Thanet primary schools. It is based at the Concorde Youth Centre in Ramsgate. The work also involves going into the schools to participate in reintegration, follow-up and preventative activities.

The post will require working together with a wide range of agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the participating young people are met.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs
Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.
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Closing date: Midday, 1 May 2008.

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A unique opportunity has arisen within Swale Borough Council for a suitable candidate wishing to become a Health & Safety Professional.

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The role will involve supporting the Safety Officer and others, carrying out site inspections and helping maintain documentation.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking to establish a career within health and safety and the desire to progress to a higher grade (Career Graded) within the organisation following qualification training and experience.

Candidates must hold a minimum of 3 A levels, but preferably a degree or equivalent and previous experience of a work environment such as office or construction administration would be an advantage. Although no prior health and safety knowledge is needed, excellent organisational skills coupled with strong IT skills will be required together with the desire to continue with education.

We welcome applications for flexible working arrangements.

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For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting ref: 510AM1.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: http://jobs.swale.gov.uk

Closing date: 6 May 2008 Interviews: 15/16 May 2008

St John's RC Comprehensive School
Rochester Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JW
Headteacher: A J Stanley B.Ed M.A. (Ed)

Tel: 01474 534718 Fax: 01474 563763
e-mail: office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

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Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk or from Mike O'Shea, e-mail: moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

The closing date for applications is ***Wednesday, 7 May.***

Jobsforkent.co.uk continued from page 38

Wilmington Enterprise College
Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent DA2 7DR
Headteacher: Grahame Price
Tel: 01322 272111 Fax: 01322 222500
email: admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
www.wec.kent.sch.uk

TECHNICIAN/INSTRUCTOR DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Required as soon as possible. 37 hours per week for 41 weeks per year. Salary Kent Scheme 4 £15,826 - £16,627 (pro rata). To support teaching and learning in Design and Technology and following appropriate training to cover for absent teachers on short term sickness. Further detail available from the school.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 6th May 2008

Wilmington Enterprise College
Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent DA2 7DR
Headteacher: Grahame Price
Tel: 01322 272111 Fax: 01322 222500
email: admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
www.wec.kent.sch.uk

CARETAKER

52 weeks (hours negotiable). To join our existing team with responsibility for security, caretaking, cleaning, painting and general maintenance needs of the school. To start as soon as possible. Kent Scheme 3 Points 7-11 (£13,959 - £15,826 pro rata). Please contact the school for application form and further details.

Closing date: 6th May 2008

Kent County Council

Area Team Leader - Primary Mental Health Project Manager

Starting salary £26,159 with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum
Swale

Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people, and could you support and offer guidance to other colleagues?

We are seeking to appoint a Team Leader who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

The primary function of this role is to establish and support Kent Safe Schools Primary Mental Health Project, a new initiative targeted at young people in Swale schools and working closely with teachers, Health professional and CAMHS workers. You would work with multi-agencies, schools, parents, children and young people with the intention of making schools a safer environment for young people, and to facilitate the referral of young people through schools into mental health support programmes.

In addition to the Project Manager duties, the Area Team Leader will be expected to work closely with all agencies, schools and communities to identify networking opportunities and establish firm partnerships. You will take a shared responsibility for supporting other staff delivering in the same area, with a particular focus on the co-ordination of services, induction and training.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who posses experience of working with young people, ideally in primary phase. **Ref: CFE/08/0147**

Closing date: Midday, 8th May 2008.

Partnership with Parents

Starting salary £26,159, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum (pro rata for temporary post)
Shepway Centre, Maidstone

We are looking to recruit people with exceptional communication skills who are committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental involvement.

You will need excellent oral and written communication skills, experience of developing partnerships with a wide range of people and experience of working with parents.

Partnership with Parents Development Officer - Parent Forums

Temporary/Secondment opportunity until April 2009

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills. We have been contracted by the Extended Schools Service to set up Parent Forums in each LCSP/Cluster. Do you have the skills to help us? Experience of managing projects is essential. **Ref: CFE/08/0161**

Partnership with Parents Development Officer

Full time post

This is an exciting opportunity for you to join our team at a time of significant development. We are an arm's length service providing an impartial advice and support service to parents and carers of children with additional needs.

We also work closely with schools, services and agencies to promote parental involvement.

We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve. Experience of delivering training and knowledge of AEN and SEN processes is essential. **Ref: CFE/08/0162**
Supervision will be provided for both posts.

Closing date for the above two posts: Midday, 8th May 2008.

The above posts are all subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Personnel Assistant

Starting salary £16,627 with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 pro rata
Brook House, Whitstable

The Schools' Personnel Service provides a comprehensive personnel service to schools across Kent. This includes giving advice on terms and conditions of employment, producing contracts and liaising with the schools' payroll providers.

We require a part-time Personnel Assistant (job share), working 22 hours per week - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

We are looking for good team workers, educated to GCSE level or equivalent, to join our busy, hard working and friendly team. A high degree of tact and confidentiality is required as well as an ability to organise and prioritise work; keep calm under pressure and work to deadlines.

Previous personnel experience would be an advantage but not essential, as full training is given. **Ref: CED/08/0049**

Closing date: Midday, 7th May 2008.

To apply for any of these posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote appropriate reference number.

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Environment - Transportation Services

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£20,004 - £24,444 (pay award pending)

The Transportation section has an extensive workload including issues such as car park maintenance, bus shelters, parking control schemes, street name plates, road closures, parking bays, signs and lines and much more.

Your responsibilities will include assessing and implementing disabled persons bay applications and maintaining/improving car parks and on street parking furniture. You will also be assisting in implementing the Council's parking strategy.

With an HNC/HND or equivalent in relevant subject you will have previous experience working with contractors and be able to solve technical problems and taking appropriate action after considering a range of options.

Civil Enforcement Officer

£17,043 - £20,649 (pay award pending)

Civil Enforcement Officers have the responsibility to enforce parking regulations on the highway as well as council car parks across the whole of the Shepway district.

We are looking to recruit a Civil Enforcement Officer to join this vibrant team in this challenging role. Successful applicants will have excellent communication skills both orally and written; be able to demonstrate team working, work under pressure and handle conflict calmly; have a positive and friendly approach and a reasonable level of fitness.

Previous experience is not as important as a positive, motivated person who is quick and willing to learn. Full training will be provided and the team generally aims to offer a supportive working environment.

You will be required to work on a shift system between the hours of 8am - 8pm any 5 out of 7 days including bank holidays. A full driving license will be necessary.

Please contact Frederick Miller, Transportation Manager on 01303 853207 for more information about either post.

For application details download at www.shepway.gov.uk or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answer-phone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 7 May 2008.

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£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 p.a. rising to £19,442 p.a.
with exceptional performance (pay award pending)
plus a final salary contributory pension scheme

You will be a part of the team maintaining the cleanliness of the streets within the Sevenoaks District Council area, and be based at Dunbrik Depot, Sundridge.
You will need to be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post, presentable in appearance and prepared to work as part of a team. You will be working a 37 hour week and you must hold a driving licence that allows you to drive a vehicle up to 7.5 tonnes.

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with exceptional performance (pay award pending)
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You will have use of a Council van to carry out your duties, therefore you must be able to drive and hold a full, clean UK driving licence.
You will be part of a team, but will work independently, and will therefore be reliable and responsible with a flexible approach and able to use initiative.
You will be expected to work on a rota basis which includes early and late shifts including Saturday and Sunday working, with split shifts to maintain daily cleaning standards. Basic working hours are 37 hours per week with overtime or fixed rate payments for hours worked in excess of this.
You will be committed to customer care and delivering a quality service.
Although not essential, knowledge of Hygiene Best Practice and COSHH regulations would be desirable.
For an informal discussion about these posts, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375.
Our staff benefits package includes, a final salary contributory pension scheme, flexible annual leave and working arrangements, free membership of Sencio's Leisure Centres in the District, a childcare vouchers scheme and excellent training and development opportunities.
To apply on-line please visit our website @ www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs You may also contact the Human Resources Team for an Information pack and application form by calling the recruitment voicemail on 01732 227102 (24 hours) or by e-mailing recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk quoting the reference number.
Closing date: Tuesday 6th May 2008 Interview date: Thursday 15th & Friday 16th May 2008

Sevenoaks District Council is committed to being an Equal Opportunities Employer

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Mrs Gill Perry, Headteacher
Burnt Oak Primary School
Cornwall Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1LP
Telephone - (01634) 852991
Fax - 01634 571283
Email
office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School
Foundation Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email office@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School
Year 3
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
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Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
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fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Gordon Junior School
KS2 Teacher (Responsibility for Literacy)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2b - £3940
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 13 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Ellen Wilson, Headteacher
GordonJunior School
Gordon Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3HQ
Telephone - (01634) 719971
Fax - 01634 290337
Email headteacher@
gordon-jun.medway.sch.uk

Hempstead Junior School
Key Stage 2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
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Hempstead Junior School
Birch Grove
Hempstead
Gillingham
Kent ME7 3SD
Telephone - (01634) 371823
Fax - 01634 233328
Email office@
hempsteadjnr.medway.sch.uk

High Halstow Primary School
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 22 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Pat Sanford, Headteacher
High Halstow Primary
Harrison Drive
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Kent ME3 8TF
Telephone - (01634) 251098
Fax - 01634 255628
Email headteacher@
highhalstow.medway.sch.uk

Luton Junior School
Class Teacher and Subject Leader for Music
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 24 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sheila Scott
Luton Road Junior School
Luton Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 5AW
Telephone - (01634) 844149
Fax - 01634 843582
Email scotts001@medway.org.uk

The Pilgrim School
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
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Closing date: 2 May 2008
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Warwick Cresent
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Kent ME1 3LF
Telephone - (01634) 841873
Email
office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Closing Date: 9th May 2008
Required From: 1 September 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Lynn Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
E-mail Headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher

Fairview Community Primary School
Deputy Headteacher
Salary: L12-L16 +relocation package
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 9 May 2008
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Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email headteacher@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary
Deputy Headteacher
Salary: L10-L14 (£43,656-£48,138)
Full Time and Permanent
Closing Date: 6th May 2008
Required From: 1 September 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Lynn Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
E-mail Headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Headteacher

Maundene School
Headteacher
Salary: L20-L26 £55,782-£64,611
Full Time and Permanent
To apply/more information
Sue Bowers, Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331100
Email vacancies@medway.gov.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Chatham South
Teacher of History
Salary: MPS / UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Fax - 01634829010
Email Chipm002@medway.org.uk

Chatham South

Teacher of Mathematics
Salary: MPS / UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Fax - 01634829010
Email Chipm002@medway.org.uk

Greenacre School
Teacher of PE
Full Time and permanent
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
E-mail
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Medway Community College
Teacher of English
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008 or earlier
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
Teacher Recruitment Team
Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331292
Email teaching@medway.gov.uk

Medway Community College
Mathematics Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
Teacher Recruitment Team
Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331292
Email teaching@medway.gov.uk

New Brompton College
Teacher of Drama
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss, Personnel Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Email
suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

New Brompton College
Teacher of Dance
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss, Personnel Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Email
suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

Rainham School for Girls
Teacher of Science/ Health and Social Care
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Teacher of Law
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic
Comprehensive School
Ordanance Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@
st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Teacher of Science
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden,
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Teacher of Maths
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden,
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Assistant Faculty Leader

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Assistant Faculty Leader of Religious Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic
Comprehensive School
Ordanance Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@
st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Assistant Curriculum Leader

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Assistant Curriculum leader (Technology)
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Head of Department

Chatham South School
Head of ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLRc
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Maureen Chipperfield
Office Manager
Chatham South School
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email Headteacher@
chathamsouth.medway.sch.uk

Walderslade Girls School
Head of Business Studies
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2B
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Walderslade
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Email Headteacher@
waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

Curriculum Leader

Rainham School for Girls
Curriculum Leader - Geography
Salary: MPS/UPS +TLR 2b (£4,037)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Curriculum leader - Science
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Subject Leader

Greenacre School
Subject Leader in English
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
(A Specialist Sports College)
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
Fax - 01634 869246
Email
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

The Thomas Aveling School
Subject Leader for Business Studies with a responsibility for Enterprise Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2a (£5778)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr Richard Hart
Headteacher
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Fax - 01634 818385
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager

Walderslade Girls School
Salary: L16 - L20
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 1 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs P Conibeer, Headteacher
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Fax - 01634 869246
Email headteacher@
waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

SEN

Abbey Court Community Special School
SEN Teacher
Salary: MPS + 2 SEN Points
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor
Abbey Court Community Special School
Rede Court Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

Abbey Court Community Special School
SEN Teacher to lead KS4/5 (Further Education)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2 (£5778) + 2 SEN
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor
Abbey Court Community Special School
Rede Court Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

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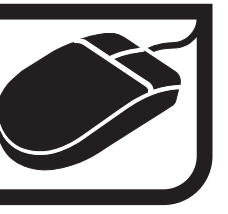

BEST

BEHAVIOUR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME / ASHFORD BEHAVIOUR & EDUCATION SUPPORT TEAM

PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH WORKER

Salary scale: £25,521 – £29,190 per annum
37 hours per week (initially fixed term to April 2011)

We are looking for a Primary Mental Health professional who is committed to promoting the emotional and mental well-being of children and young people by developing skills in community based settings and providing early intervention and preventative work.

Based within BEST you will be working as part of a multi-agency team with designated Ashford primary and secondary schools within BIP.

You should hold nursing/social work/psychology qualifications or equivalent and have a minimum of 3 years experience working with children/young people and their families. Relevant experience of working with CAMHS or in community settings with children who have experienced mental health problems would be advantageous. Therapeutic skills appropriate to working with children and young people are essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

For application pack please contact
Lisa Vant, Senior Administrator, BEST,
Ray Allen Centre, Stanhope Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 5RN.
Tel: 01233 668506. E-mail: lisa.vant@kent.gov.uk
To discuss this post please contact Jane Harrison-Carter, Team Leader, on the same number.

Closing date: 2nd May 2008 *Interviews will be held on: 20th May 2008*

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide-range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 15,000 students of all ages. As a Further and Higher Education College, we are the largest education institution in Kent.

We currently have the following opportunities:

Lecturer in Sociology
12.5 hours per week
Ashford

Lecturer in ESOL
Variable hours, fixed-term until 31st July 2008
Folkestone

Life Long Learning Network Co-ordinator
11 hours per week, fixed-term until 31st July 2009
Ashford

Assessor - Health and Care (Promoting Independence)
37 hours per week
Folkestone

Assessor - Health and Care (Children and Young People)
37 hours per week
Folkestone

Administration Assistant
37 hours per week, fixed-term until 31st March 2010
Folkestone

Systems Technician
37 hours per week
Ashford

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Wednesday 7th May 2008.

For further information, including salary details and an application pack for the above vacancies, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.
Applications are welcome form suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

Rainham School for Girls

(A Specialist Technology College & Training School)
Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0BX. Tel: 01634 362 746
(NOR 1500) Head Teacher: Mrs J Dunn

Required for September 2008 Curriculum Leader, Geography (TLR 2b - £4,037) and Teacher of Science/Health and Social Care

Applications welcome from experienced teachers and NQTs

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure. This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from the School.

Tel. 01634 362746 Email: admin@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: 2nd May 2008

Make a difference.
Foster carers wanted for dynamic new service

The Caldecott Foundation is launching a new fostering service in response to requests from numerous local authorities.

The service is part of a multi-disciplinary framework which offers support and training from the Foundation's existing range of professional services including the Caldecott School, therapy centre, psychology service and learning and development centre.

You will receive a comprehensive package of support and training reflecting the demands of the role you will undertake, and very competitive rates of pay.

You will be highly motivated, enjoy life, and be dedicated to providing the very best standards of care to vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption in their lives.

Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield to register your interest on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecott foundation.co.uk

www.caldecottfoundation.co.uk

The Caldecott Foundation Helping children build a future
Reg. charity no. 307069

Social Worker – Specialist Palliative Care Ref: CA0980D

Grade B1/B2. Salary £22,122 – £33,291 per annum, post qualifying award bar at point 38.
Location: The Wisdom Hospice, Rochester.

Managing your own caseload, you will assess and respond to the needs of adults affected by serious illness, death and bereavement, with opportunities to work with individuals, families (including children) and in groups. As an advocate for service users who are at the end of life, you will provide counselling support, deal with complex practice issues and ethical dilemmas. You will work in a small team of specialist social workers and counsellors who work in partnership with health colleagues to provide high quality, seamless, therapeutic care. The service is provided across the Medway and Swale area, where service users are seen in the community, in the inpatient unit and in day hospice.

Within a supportive work environment, you will receive excellent supervision and development opportunities including the chance to attend relevant internal and external courses.

In addition to a DipSW or CQSW, you must have demonstrable post qualification experience of counselling people affected by serious illness. You must be registered, or in the process of registering with the GSCC. A full driving licence is essential. Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure. All posts will be open to part-time and job share applicants unless designated as an exception.

For an informal discussion, please contact Ann McMurray, Social Work Manager, Palliative Care or Marilyn Russell, Senior Practitioner on 01634 830456.

Closing date: 2 May, 2008.

To apply

visit **www.medway.gov.uk**
call **01634 333333** Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.
email **jobs@medway.gov.uk** quoting the reference.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
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8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
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13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
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16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2007-June 2008) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
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18. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
19. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
20. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.

    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract.

    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.

    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.

    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.

    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
21. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
22. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
23. All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
24. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
25. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
26. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from March 2008

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Kent CT16 1EZ
Tel: 01304 201118
e.mail: office@st-richards.kent.sch.uk

Advisory Headteacher: Lucy Nutt

Two Key Stage 2 Teachers

Required for September 2008

The Governors seek to appoint two hardworking, creative and inspiring teachers to join our school team and work within Key Stage 2. The successful candidates should feel able to support the Catholic ethos of our school.

Application form and details from *www.st-richards.kent.sch.uk*.
Please feel free to visit our friendly school.
School re-opens on 21 April 2008, please contact office for an appointment.

Closing date: Noon 28 April 2008
Interviews: 6 May 2008

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Gravesham Borough Council

Transformation and Finance
Communications

Media Officer

Salary: Circa £19,000 – £21,000

Our Communications Team is looking for an enthusiastic Media Officer to complete a busy team which punches above its weight. Applicants must have good writing skills and the ability to communicate across the full range of media. The ability to work to tight deadlines is essential and knowledge of desktop publishing and imaging packages would be an advantage.

To succeed in this role you will have experience of PR, journalism, publishing, designing and/or marketing, preferably having experience of working with/for local authorities. **Ref:MA/GC**

Communities
Community Safety

Community Warden

Salary: Circa £16,500 – £21,000

We have an exciting opportunity for someone who would like to be actively involved in making our estates throughout the Borough a better place to live.

You will be at the forefront of challenging and tackling anti social behaviour, maintaining a visible presence in the locality and building relationships with residents; assisting in promoting and developing a safe environment in conjunction with the police and other partners. In addition you will be working with residents to ensure that the appearance of housing estates is continually improving and strong positive relationships are established amongst the community and relevant agencies. You will have a strong determined character and will not be easily intimidated. You will demonstrate good communication skills and the ability to build and maintain working relationships. You will be responsible for keeping accurate records and acting as a professional witness should the need arise. A clean driving licence is essential.

Hours are worked on a rota basis 5 days on 3 days off mainly in the evenings. Flexibility is essential. The successful applicants will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check.

If you would like an informal discussion about the post please call Bill Lacey on 07979 791291 **Ref:CW/BL**

Housing and Environment
Waste Management

Enforcement Officer

Salary: Circa £18,500 – £23,000

We are seeking an enthusiastic and flexible team player to join the Waste and Horticultural Services team at the Brookvale depot in Northfleet.

You will be responsible for enforcing waste legislation such as the Clean Neighbourhood and Environmental Act and Environmental Protection Act 1990. Your duties will include issuing fixed penalty notices and investigating flytipping.

Previous enforcement experience knowledge of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act and Environmental Protection act 1990 are desirable and you will have good writtern, oral and IT skills. A knowledge of waste management and recycling would be an advantage. The successful applicants will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check. **Ref:SA/EO**

Housing and Environment
Parking Services

Civil Enforcement Officers

3 x Full time Posts of 37 Hours PW
Salary: Circa £15,000 – £16,500

You will be responsible for enforcing traffic and parking regulations, issuing penalty Charge Notices, also to enforce the new residents parking areas. In addition, your duties will include observing and reporting vehicles without valid vehicle licences (tax), assisting the public with minor enquiries, reporting/checking signs and markings, providing witness statements and liaising with the police.

We are seeking highly motivated individuals with good communication skills and the ability to deal calmly and professionally with difficult situations. Previous experience in parking enforcement is desirable, although not essential as full training will be given. Some administrative work is also involved.

This is a uniformed outdoor role which will include working in all weathers. You will be required to work over 7 days, on a rota basis including early starts and late finishes. The successful applicants will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check. **Ref:CE/PMCN**

Housing and Environment
Waste and Horticulture Services

Park Ranger

Salary: Circa £15,500 – £16,500

Applications are invited from enthusiastic individuals to help provide high quality parks and open spaces throughout the borough.

You will be responsible for ensuring play equipment is safe and useable, unlock the parks open spaces and cemeteries, keep open spaces free from litter and to provide maintenance of infrastructure. A full driving license is essential. The successful applicants will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check. **Ref: SA/PR**

Closing date for all posts will be: 2 May 2008.

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00

Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.

Beacon Council 2005-2006 Promoting Racial Equality 2001-2002 Town Centre Regeneration

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Gravesham Borough Council

Housing and Environment
Housing Services

Estate Services Coordinator

Salary: Package up to Circa £27,000

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to further develop caretaking services provided to residents across the borough. Tenants regularly inform us that a good caretaking service is one of their main priorities and this role is therefore a key one within the department.

Reporting to the Tenancy Services Manager, you will manage, and lead our caretaking service and build on your previous caretaking management experience ensuring innovation and best practice are core to the delivery of the caretaking service.
Ref: CSO/WA

Housing Officers

Salary: Circa £17,000 – £23,000 (pro rata for part time post)
Post A – Full time – 37 hours per week
Post B – Part time – 18.5 hours per week

We are looking to appoint two Housing Officers to join our busy team. Duties will include tenancy management, dealing with anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood development, estate inspections and monitoring caretaking standards.

A strong team player, you will have strong interpersonal skills, a sound knowledge of housing law and practice and have previous experience in a customer facing role. A full driving licence and the use of a vehicle are also essential.
Ref: HO/WA

Rent Arrears Officer

Salary: Circa £17,000 – £21,000

In this varied role you will be responsible for carrying out arrears recovery action which will include attending court. A strong team player, you will have the ability to work effectively to meet targets for rent collection and arrears.

You will have experience of debt recovery, good communication and IT skills and the ability to prepare reports and present cases. A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential as you will be required to carry out home visits throughout the borough.
Ref: RAO/WA

Rent Officer

Salary: Circa £15,500 – £18,500

As a Rent Officer you will work as part of a team providing a comprehensive rent collection service to the tenants of Gravesham Borough Council.

With sound experience in a front line position in a customer focused environment, you will be IT literate with the ability to prioritise a busy workload. The role also demands strong organisational skills, an understanding of the issues associated with rent recovery and housing legislation and the ability to make complex calculations and interpret rent accounts. A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential. You will be required to work unsocial hours from time to time.
Ref: RO/WA

Closing date for all posts will be: 7 May 2008.

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00

Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.

Beacon Council 2005-2006 Promoting Racial Equality 2001-2002 Town Centre Regeneration

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
Tel: 0844 477 25252

We are seeking to appoint

Full Time CARETAKER

Kent Scheme Grade 4 - £15,440 p.a.

Alternating shift pattern 6.50 am to 2.45 pm/1.35 pm to 9.30 pm
Monday to Friday each week
Opportunities for overtime (including weekends) to support school events

We require a caretaker with a flexible and pro-active approach to join our existing team with duties covering security, heating, lighting, maintenance, minor repairs, decoration, cleaning, health and safety, porterage and general duties of a kind associated with a school.

The position will involve driving the school minibus and be subject to full CRB and Occupational Health checks.

Application by letter with CV, including the names and contact details of two referees to Mrs T Davies, School Business Manager as above or by email to personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

Closing date for applications: Monday, 21 April 2008

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

achievement employability experience development

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply Lecturers

Various hours are available
Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata pa
Post Ref: Supply

If you are a newly-qualified teacher, or an experienced specialist interested in a second career in Further Education, we are keen to hear from you. This is an exciting opportunity to gain valuable experience in the Further Education sector, supply lecturing offers the possibility of part-time hours fitted around your existing commitments, and according to your own specialist skills, qualifications and experience. A teaching qualification is not always essential, however if you do not hold one then we will provide the appropriate training when you join our team.

We offer a wide range of both vocational and academic courses - to find out whether your skills match any of those on offer, further details can be found at www.cant-col.ac.uk

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above post is Monday 12 May at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

Find a job online

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

Further Education Sports Co-ordinator (FESCo)

Salary: £28,378 pro rata per annum
Location: South Kent College, Folkestone
Post: 15 hours per week
(3 year fixed-term contract renewable subject to continuous funding)

For South Kent College based at Folkestone as part of The Shepway School Sport Partnership.

We are looking for a committed individual to develop this new role of a Further Education Sport Co-ordinator. As a pilot partnership, The Shepway School Sport Partnership and South Kent College are looking to appoint an individual (teacher or non teacher) to support the development and delivery of sport for the 16-19 age group.

As a new role the FESCo will look to audit the current provision of sport for this age group and work to implement strategies and schemes focused on widening participation, increasing opportunity and improving both intra and inter college competition.

The successful candidate will have a passion for sport and have experience of working within either an education or sports development setting. They will have excellent interpersonal skills, hold the ability to be part of a team whilst also working on their own initiative. They will have the determination and commitment to make a difference and have a true belief in the value of sport.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Wednesday 7th May 2008.

For further information and an application pack for the above vacancy, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.

Applications are welcome form suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

South Kent College

Bright new careers online

Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY **KOS MEDIA**

IMPROVING PROSPECTS. ACHIEVING RESULTS

West Kent College

We are one of the most successful colleges in the south east region providing further and higher education. We are committed to improving the diversity of our staff by offering a wide range of opportunities including apprenticeships, flexible working and full and part-time positions. Why not look at what we can offer you.

Admissions Officer

£18,059 - £21,237 pa. • Maternity Cover (min. six months)

This varied role will see you updating course information for our website, working closely with our marketing team and handling a variety of public enquiries. It will also provide you with the opportunity to help us produce reports and analyse the success of our advertising and promotional material.

As well as excellent customer care skills, you must be confident working with computers and answering the telephone. A very organised approach and the ability to work effectively under pressure will also be essential.

All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate.

The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working hours; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; private health plan; Health & Fitness suite and more.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Closing date: noon, 1 May 2008.

Action for Business College

Brook Street • Tonbridge • Kent TN9 2PW

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

JobsforKent.co.uk

ACCOUNTANCY

JOB TITLE:
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
LOCATION:
Faversham
SALARY:
£34,991- £42,681
COMPANY:
KCA (UK)
TO APPLY:
Marina Mclean - KCA (UK)
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
21st April 2008

ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA

JOB TITLE:
Mailing List Researcher required
LOCATION:
Hythe
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Evegate Publishing
TO APPLY:
Jamie McGrorty - Evegate Publishing
Email jamie@southeastbusiness.net

CATERING, HOSPITALITY

JOB TITLE:
ASSISTANT
LOCATION:
Dover
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Maison Dieu Guest House
TO APPLY:
Diane - Maison Dieu Guest House
Tel: 01304 204033
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager
LOCATION:
Margate
SALARY:
Up to £23K
COMPANY:
Thanet Leisure Force
TO APPLY:
Thanet Leisure Force
Tel: 01843 227959
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
Monday 28th April 2008

JOB TITLE:
CATERING ASSISTANT
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Age Concern
TO APPLY:
Age Concern
Tel: 01474 564898 or 01474 567131
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Cook
LOCATION:
Cranbrook
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
The Grange
TO APPLY:
Personnel Manager
The Grange
Tel: 01580 240118
Email cg-@hotmail.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Contracts Surveyor
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£25,000 pa
COMPANY:
Serco Local Government
TO APPLY:
Serco Local Government
Tel: 01227 819464
Email antony.mckean@canterbury.serco.com
CLOSING DATE
30th April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Contracts Manager
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
Negotiable
COMPANY:
GSE Group
TO APPLY:
Sue Barlow - GSE Group
Tel: 01233 506320
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

JOB TITLE:
Contracts Surveyor
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
Negotiable
COMPANY:
GSE Group
TO APPLY:
Sue Barlow - GSE Group
Tel: 01233 506320
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

JOB TITLE:
Joinery Workshop Foreman / Manager
LOCATION:
Faversham
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Burton Group
TO APPLY:
Burton Group - Tel: 01795 520011
Email rhumphries@burton-group.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Masonry Operations Labourer
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
Good basic salary and benefits package available
COMPANY:
Kings School
TO APPLY:
Personnel Department
Kings School
Tel: 01227 595655
Email d.gentry@kings-bursary.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
23rd April 2008

DOMESTIC

JOB TITLE:
CARETAKER
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
£13,959 - £15,826 pro rata
COMPANY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
TO APPLY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
Tel: 01322 272111
Email admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Cleaner wanted
LOCATION:
Ramsgate
SALARY:
£8.00 per hour
COMPANY:
Simon Wallis
TO APPLY:
Deborah - Simon Wallis
Tel: 07890 266 203
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Domestic Saturday Work
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Country Care
TO APPLY:
Mrs Brooks - Country Care
Tel: 01795 886220
Email ellenscourt@btconnect.com

JOB TITLE:
Mobile Office/Public Convenience Cleaners x3
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 p.a. rising to £19,442 p.a.
COMPANY:
Sevenoaks District Council
TO APPLY:
the Human Resources Team
Sevenoaks District Council
Tel: 01732 227102 (24 hours)
Email recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
Tuesday 6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Property Cleaner
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£7.50 per hour
COMPANY:
Serco Local Government
Clean after decorating/maintenance completed. Driving Licence. 20 hours pw.
TO APPLY:
Bob Vidler
Serco Local Government
Tel: 01227 819401
Email bvidler@canterbury.serco.com
CLOSING DATE
01/05/2008

EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL

JOB TITLE:
Curriculum Leader, Geography and Teacher of Science/ Health and Social Care
LOCATION:
Rainham
SALARY:
(TLR 2b - £4,037)
COMPANY:
Rainham School for Girls
TO APPLY:
Rainham School for Girls
Tel: 01634 362746
Email admin@rsg.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Lecturer, Horticulture
LOCATION:
London
SALARY:
£21,762 to £29,337 per annum
COMPANY:
Hadlow College
TO APPLY:
Hadlow College
Tel: 01732 850551
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk
CLOSING DATE
21/04/2008

JOB TITLE:
Part-Time Teacher of Science
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Borden Grammar School
TO APPLY:
Mrs Tracey Tummon
Borden Grammar School
Tel: 01795 424192
Email tjt@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
Thursday 1 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Student Development Officer
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£19,953 - £23,588 pa
COMPANY:
West Kent College
TO APPLY:
HR department
West Kent College
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

JOB TITLE:
TECHNICIAN/ INSTRUCTOR DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
Salary Kent Scheme 4 £15,826
COMPANY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
TO APPLY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
Tel: 01322 272111
Email admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Transport Manager
LOCATION:
Ramsgate
SALARY:
Dependent on experience
COMPANY:
Churchill House School of English
TO APPLY:
Jonathan Cox
Churchill House School of English
Tel: 01843 593630
Email johnc@churchillhouse.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
1st week of September 2008

ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES

JOB TITLE:
GOODS INWARDS/ STORES OPERATIVE
LOCATION:
Whitstable
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Woodfield Systems Ltd
TO APPLY:
Angela White
Woodfield Systems Ltd
Tel: 01227 793351
Email angela.white@akerkvaerner.com

JOB TITLE:
Plumbers/Maintenance Engineers
LOCATION:
Medway
SALARY:
Earning potential £30k plus.
COMPANY:
Pro Plumbing Kent Limited
TO APPLY:
Kevin Wyley
Pro Plumbing Kent Limited
Tel: 01634 682011
Email proplumbkent@aol.com

JOB TITLE:
Trainee Machinist
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
Salary around £16,000 p.a. depending on experience
COMPANY:
AEM Ltd
TO APPLY:
Paul Ruprecht,
AEM Ltd
Email paul.ruprecht@ametek.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

GRADUATE, TRAINEES

JOB TITLE:
DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING ASSISTANT
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£15,000 - £19,000 depending on experience
COMPANY:
Screen South
TO APPLY:
Vanessa Cook - Screen South
Tel: 01303 259 777
Email vanessa.cook@screensouth.org

JOB TITLE:
Teacher Training
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£14,751
COMPANY:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
TO APPLY:
Mike O'Shea, St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Email moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
Wednesday, 7 May 2008

HEALTH & SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENSE

JOB TITLE:
Health and Safety Co-ordinator and Deputy Estates Manager
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£29,245 - £32,917 pa
COMPANY:
West Kent College
TO APPLY:
HR department - West Kent College
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk
CLOSING DATE
Noon 24 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Health, Safety and Environment Trainee
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
Starting Salary £17,559 - £18,438 p.a.
COMPANY:
Swale Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Swale Borough Council
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
6 May 2008

INDUSTRIAL, WAREHOUSE, FACTORY

JOB TITLE:
Part Time Machinists
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Brookerpaks Ltd
TO APPLY:
Jo - Brookerpaks Ltd
Tel: 01795 844232
Email jo@brookerpaks.co.uk

INFORMATION TECH, INTERNET, TELECOMS

JOB TITLE:
ICT Network Manager
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
Kent Scheme 8 (£22,825 - £26,159)
COMPANY:
Spires Academy
TO APPLY:
Spires Academy - Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com
CLOSING DATE
Wednesday 23rd April 2008 at noon

JOB TITLE:
Web Developer
LOCATION:
Hythe
SALARY:
up to £25,000 DOE
COMPANY:
Holiday Extras
TO APPLY:
Holiday Extras
Email recruitment@holidayextras. com
CLOSING DATE
25 April 2008

MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS

JOB TITLE:
Account Management Executive - Print Management

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LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
City Digital Ltd
TO APPLY:
Sue Hickin - City Digital Ltd
Tel: 0845 262 5555
Email shickin@citydigital.net

JOB TITLE:
Account Manager - Print Management, imag
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
City Digital Ltd
TO APPLY:
Sue Hickin - City Digital Ltd
Tel: 0845 262 5555.
Email shickin@citydigital.net

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Manager
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Starting Salary £10,475 p.a. for 20 hrs /week (£10.07/hour)
COMPANY:
Volunteer Centre Gravesham
TO APPLY:
Jenny Lane
Volunteer Centre Gravesham
Tel: 01474 322729
Email jenny@
volunteercentregravesham.org

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Manager
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Country Care
TO APPLY:
Mrs Brooks - Country Care
Tel: 01795 886220
Email ellenscourt@btconnect.com

JOB TITLE:
Senior Sales / Business Development
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
City Digital Ltd
TO APPLY:
Sue Hickin - City Digital Ltd
Tel: 0845 262 5555
Email shickin@citydigital.net

MARKETING, ADVERTISING

JOB TITLE:
Admissions Officer
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£18,059 - £21,237 pa.
COMPANY:
West Kent College
TO APPLY:
HR department - West Kent College
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk
CLOSING DATE
Noon, 1 May 2008

NOT FOR PROFIT, CHARITIES

JOB TITLE:
Support Officer
LOCATION:
Sheerness
SALARY:
£18,225 + essential care user & mileage allowances and pension contribution
COMPANY:
Swale Carers Centre
TO APPLY:
Sandie Hornby
Swale Carers Centre
Tel: 01795 583440
Email
sandie.swalecarers@tiscali.co.uk

NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK

JOB TITLE:
Admin Support Worker Care
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
£14,500 - £15,500
COMPANY:
Demelza House
TO APPLY:
Ann Fagg or Wendy Faulknall
Demelza House
Tel: 01795 845295 or 01795 845200.
Email info@demelza.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
Friday 2nd May, 2008

JOB TITLE:
Carers
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Country Care
TO APPLY:
Mrs Brooks - Country Care
Tel: 01795 886220
Email ellenscourt@btconnect.com

JOB TITLE:
Community Carers and Domestic Carers
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Brampton Care Home
TO APPLY:
Alison George
Brampton Care Home
Tel: 01303 272348
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
DEPUTY MANAGER
LOCATION:
Isle of Sheppey
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Little Oyster Residential Home
TO APPLY:
Chris Kite
Little Oyster Residential Home
Email chriskite@blueyonder.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Experienced Dental Nurse and Cleaner
LOCATION:
Rainham
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Omni Park Dental Centre
TO APPLY:
Dr Julius Babayemi
Omni Park Dental Centre
Tel: 07958 540731
Email omniparkdental@yahoo.com

JOB TITLE:
Home From
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
Expenses Paid
COMPANY:
British Red Cross
TO APPLY:
Robyn Dye - British Red Cross
Tel: 01227 763900
(Answerphone out of hours)
Email rdye@redcross.org.uk

JOB TITLE:
IN-HOUSE BATHER
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Age Concern
TO APPLY:
Age Concern
Tel: 01474 564898 or 01474 567131
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Primary Mental Health Worker
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
£25,521 - £29,190 per annum
COMPANY:
Ashford BEST
TO APPLY:
Lisa Vant - Ashford BEST
Tel: 01233 668506
Email lisa.vant@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Support Worker
LOCATION:
Cranbrook
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
The Grange
TO APPLY:
Personnel Manager
The Grange
Tel: 01580 240118
Email cg-@hotmail.co.uk

PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION

JOB TITLE:
Part Time Packers
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Brookerpaks Ltd
TO APPLY:
Jo - Brookerpaks Ltd
Tel: 01795 844232
Email jo@brookerpaks.co.uk

PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA, JOURNALISM

JOB TITLE:
Media Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Circa £19,000 - £21,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES

JOB TITLE:
Civil Enforcement Officer
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£17,043 - £20,649 (pay award pending)
COMPANY:
Shepway District Council
TO APPLY:
Frederick Miller
Shepway District Council
Tel: 01303 853207
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Civil Enforcement Officers
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£15,000 - £16,500
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Community Warden
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Circa £16,500 - £21,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Bill Lacey, Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 07979 791291
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Enforcement Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Circa £18,500 - £23,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Environment - Transportation Services Technical Officer
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£20,004 - £24,444 (pay award pending)
COMPANY:
Shepway District Council
TO APPLY:
Frederick Miller
Shepway District Council
Tel: 01303 853207
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Estate Services Coordinator
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Package up to Circa £27,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Housing Officers
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£17,000 – £23,000 (pro rata for part time post)
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Park Ranger
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Circa £15,500 - £16,500
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Planning and Communities Supported Housing Officer
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£20,004 to £24,444 + car allowance
COMPANY:
Shepway District Council
TO APPLY:
Angela Vince
Shepway District Council
Tel: 01303 853184
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
Friday 25 April

JOB TITLE:
Rent Arrears Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£17,000 - £21,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Rent Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£15,500 - £18,500
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
TO APPLY:
Customer Services
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.servies@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Social Worker - Specialist Palliative Care
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Grade B1/B2. Salary £22,122 – £33,291 per annum,
COMPANY:
Medway Council
TO APPLY:
Medway Council - Tel: 01634 333333
Email jobs@medway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd May, 2008

JOB TITLE:
Street Sweeper/Driver
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 p.a. rising to £19,442 p.a. with exceptional performance (pay award pending)
COMPANY:
Sevenoaks District Council
TO APPLY:
the Human Resources Team
Sevenoaks District Council
Tel: 01732 227102 (24 hours)
Email recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
Tuesday 6th May 2008

RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES

JOB TITLE:
Lottery New Membership Salesperson
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
£17,000 plus unlimited commission plus benefits
COMPANY:
Demelza House
TO APPLY:
Paul Booth - Demelza House
Tel: 01795 845224
Email info@demelza.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
25th April 2008

SCIENTIFIC & PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH

JOB TITLE:
Experienced Laboratory Technicians
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
DOE
COMPANY:
Remel Europe Ltd
TO APPLY:
Remel Europe Ltd
Email
remel.recruitment@thermofisher.com
CLOSING DATE
Midday Friday 25 April 2008

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
S P WINDOWS INSTALLATIONS LIMITED
Company Number 05148460

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Regus, Lakeside House, 1 Furzeground Way, Stockley Park, Heathrow UB11 1BD, on 29 April 2008, at 12.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Robert Day and Company Limited, Garfield, Church Lane, Oving, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 4HL, not later than 12.00 noon on 28 April 2008. For the purposes of voting, a secured Creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Robert Day and Company Limited, Garfield, Church Lane, Oving, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 4HL, before the Meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.

Robert Day of Robert Day and Company Limited, Garfield, Church Lane, Oving, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 4HL, is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above Company and will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as is reasonably required.

By Order of the Board
Simon Joseph Perren, Director
Dated: 10 April 2008

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

The Insolvency Act 1986
CHAMELEON FINISHING LIMITED
Company Number 06029175
CONRAN JOINERY LIMITED
Company Number 04461812

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that meetings of the creditors of the above named companies will be held at the offices of Ward Mackenzie, Coach & Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5NP on Tuesday 29 April 2008 at 10.30 am and 11.00 am respectively for the purposes provided for in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

For the purposes of voting, Proof of Debt and Proxy forms intended to be used at the meetings must be lodged at the registered office of the companies, now situated at the offices of Benedict Mackenzie LLP, 5-6 The Courtyard, East Park, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6AG, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Graham P Petersen and Julie P Vahey of Benedict Mackenzie LLP, 5-6 The Courtyard, East Park, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6AG, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above companies and will, during the period before the day of the meetings, furnish creditors with such information concerning the companies affairs as they may reasonably require.

Resolutions to be taken at the aforementioned meetings may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the joint liquidators are to be remunerated. The meetings may also receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meetings.

Dated this 14th day of April 2008
Mr Nicholas Connor, Director

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Approved Premises for Civil Marriages & Civil Partnerships

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Whitstable Castle, Tower Hill, Whitstable
Applicant: Mr Roger Annable

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford, Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Approved Premises for Civil Marriages & Civil Partnerships

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: The Russell Hotel, 136 Boxley Road, Penenden Heath, Maidstone
Applicant: Mr Andrew Hawkey

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford, Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

WE Kentish Dining Rooms Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment
3. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at The Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden Vineyards, Smallhythe Road, Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7NG and to be known as Richard Phillips @ Chapel Down.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL (telephone number 01233 330721) during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 14th May 2008.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE (LICENSING ACT 2003)

Notice is hereby given that English Wines Plc has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the VARIATION of PREMISES LICENCE to reduce the extent of the licensed area to include the ground floor only (Shop and Tasting Area) and the outdoor areas. To extend the hours of licensable activity to 08.00-02.00 for the premises The Chapel Down Winery situated at Tenterden Vineyard, Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7NG.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of the objection by 17th May 2008.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN ASHFORD) (ROAD CLOSURE)TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway maintenance works to take place the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 12th May 2008 for an estimated period of one week or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

Harvey Road, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Woodlands Road, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Housefield, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Hewitts Place, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Willow Tree Close, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Field End, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Windmill Close, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Oast Meadow, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Taywood Close Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Brooke Road, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Longbridge, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Kirkwood Avenue, Woodchurch for its entire length.	None available.
Sotherton, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Alsops Road, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Falcon Way, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Julian Way, Ashford for its entire length.	Holmwood Road and The Rise.
The Rise, Ashford for its entire length.	Holmwood Road and Julian Way
Hawks Way, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Farm Close, Ashford for its entire length.	None available.
Cuckoo Lane, Ashford for its entire length.	Beaver Lane, Cryol Road, St Stephens Walk, Athol Road and Stanhope Road.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration. Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SWAIN ROAD, TENTERDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Swain Road, Tenterden from junction of Ashford Road to Wayside Avenue on or after 05 May 2008 for an estimated period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for eastbound traffic via the Ashford Road (A28) and Heather Drive and for westbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Stuart Kelly of Morrison Utility Services on 01233 714082.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(STILE FARM BRIDGE, KCC No 1637, D 1340, PICKLEDEN LANE, CHILHAM) (WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2008.

NOTICE is hereby given that due to limited structural strength of the bridge KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1, 2(4) and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The Order will prohibit any motor vehicle with a maximum gross (fully laden) weight capable of exceeding 3 tonnes to proceed throughout the length of D1340, Picklelden Lane, Chilham over Stile Farm Bridge (KCC Structure No 1637)

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Invicta House, Maidstone between 8.30am and 5pm and Mondays to Fridays.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection:

In writing to the Structures Manager, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, by 12 noon on Monday 12 May 2008.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(RIDGEWAY CLIFF, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because various craning activities works are proposed to be carried out, for up to 3 or 4 occasions between April and September, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Ridgeway Cliff, Herne Bay from its junction with Western Esplanade for up to 30 metres in a southerly direction on 21 April 2008 for an estimated period of 6 Months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Western Esplanade, Victoria Drive and The Broadway.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MIDDLE WALL, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because gas, water and electricity service connections works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Middle Wall, Whitstable from its junction with High Street to the entrance to Middle Wall car park on or after 6 May 2008 for an estimated period of 2 Weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street, Terrys Lane, Island Wall and Waterloo Road. Additional signing for car park via Nelson Road, Shaftesbury Road and Saltmarsh Road will also be provided.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ST. VINCENTS ROAD, DARTFORD) (PUFFIN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to install a puffin crossing on St Vincents Road, Dartford. The location of the crossing is 4.0 metres southeast of the common boundary of numbers 4 and 6 St. Vincents Road.

A copy of the plan showing this proposal can be inspected during normal working hours quoting reference number "B0743300" and the above title at the West Kent Divisional Offices, Joynes House, New Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0AT and at the Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, DA1 1DR.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VICARAGE LANE, SANDWICH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because BT joint box and ducting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Vicarage Lane, Sandwich from its junction with Church Street St Marys to its junction with Bowling Street on or after 6 May 2008 for an estimated period of 11 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Church Street St Marys and Bowling Street.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
WROTHAM ROAD GRAVESEND/NORTHFLEET, COLDHARBOUR ROAD, NORTHFLEET, HOG LANE AND DOWNS ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Hog Lane and Downs Road. This Order will also restrict traffic to traveling at a speed not exceeding 30 m.p.h on Wrotham Road, Gravesend/Northfleet between a point 40om, south of the roundabout at the junction with the access road to the westbound carriageway of A2 northwards to a point in line with the northern boundary of 350 and on Coldharbour Road, Northfleet from its junction with Wrotham Road for a distance of 150 metres in a westerly direction.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 12 months, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Hall Road and New Barn Road.

The purpose of the Order is to support the works being undertaken on the A2.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TERMINUS ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Terminus Road from the junction of Tonbridge Road to outside 25 Terminus Road on or after Monday 5th May 2008 for an estimated period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via A26 Tonbridge Road, Farleigh Lane, Gatland Lane, Terminus Road and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is John Adsley on 07774 983419.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS CROCKHAM HILL, WESTERHAM) (PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES) THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 As amended by THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 and THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 90A to Section 90"I" of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, proposes to provide the traffic calming measures at the locations as described in the Schedules hereto.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the Copies of the plan showing this proposal can be inspected during normal working hours at the West Kent Divisional Office, Joynes House, New Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0AT and at Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs UK Ltd, Floor 2, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting reference no. "B0826200" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 5th May 2008.

Schedule 1 of 2
Speed Cushions

(75mm in height, and 3.7 metres long)

1. Smiths Lane, Crockham Hill, a) 6.2 metres wide, 50.2 metres south of the common boundary of the properties commonly known as "Old Cobblers" and "Heath House" Smiths Lane.
2. Smiths Lane, Crockham Hill, b) 6.8 metres wide, 103.9 metres south of the common boundary of the properties commonly known as "Old Cobblers" and "Heath House" Smiths Lane.

Schedule 2 of 2
Reduction of carriageway width

1. B269 Kent Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, reduced to 6.8 metres wide from a point 68.7 metre northwest of the north western kerb line of the property commonly known as "Crockham Hill Farm".
2. B2026 Main Road, Crockham Hill, reduced to 8.3 metres wide from a point 7.4 metre southwest of the south western boundary of the property commonly known as "Copse Cottage" north eastwards, for a distance of 18.5 metres.

Highways – District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) AMENDMENT No2 ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the effect of making the following road one way in a north easterly direction:-

Church Street, New Romney	From a point in line with the access road to Springwood Court to the junction with Station Road (approximately 25 metres)

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Manager, 2 Beer Cart Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2NN, or by FAX to the Transportation Manager on 01227 464765 or by email to kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 12 May 2008.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HAYTON ROAD, STANFORD, FOLKESTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new electricity service connection works are proposed to be carried out outside Hayton Cottage for approximately 10m either side, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Hayton Road Stanford Folkestone from its junction with Blindhouse Lane to its junction with Kennett Lane on or after 6 May 2008 for an estimated period of 7 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Blindhouse Lane, Stone Street and Kennett Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because gas main replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Shepway as described in column 1 of schedule to this order on or after 5 May 2008 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is desribed in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Somerset Road, Folkestone.	From its junction with Cheriton High Street to its junction Baker Road.	Baker Road and Stanley Road (also including Shaftesbury Road and Ashley Avenue).	5 May 2008 for up up to 3 weeks.
Stanley Road, Folkestone.	Suspension of "No left turn" order into Cheriton High Street.	N/a	5 May 2008 for up to 3 weeks.
Phase 2			
Stanley Road, Folkestone	From its junction with Cheriton High	Baker Road and Somerset Road.	19 May 2008 for up to 3 weeks.

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BUCKLAND CROSSING, LOWER ROAD, FAVERSHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lower Road at the Buckland Crossing on or after Tuesday 22nd April 2008 for an estimated period of up to 1 day between the hours of 0020h and 0455h or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via Lower Road, Lower Norton Lane, A2 (London Road), Bysingwood Road and Lower road and for eastbound visa versa.

Traffic Management Services Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which is necessary to perform essential maintenance to the crossing. Should you require any further information these works their contact is Miss R Day on 01474 544017

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE STREET, RYARSH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on The Street, Ryarsh at its junctions with Woodgate Road, Workhouse Road and Roughetts Road.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 5 days, between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Chapel Street and Workhouse Road

Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the cleaning of BT Plant.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SANDY LANE, IGHTHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Sandy Lane, Ightham between its junctions with Common Road and Coach Road.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 14 days, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Coach Road, Copt Hall Road and Common Road

The purpose of the closure is to construct a new connection to the sewer system.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008/9 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling between the entrance to the short stay car park and its junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for the dates as shown in schedule 1 between the hours of 6am and 2pm, or, until completion of the event. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to support the Farmers Markets taking place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Sunday 27th April 2008
Monday 26th May 2008
Sunday 22nd June 2008
Sunday 27th July 2008
Sunday 24th August 2008
Sunday 28th September 2008
Sunday 26th October 2008
Sunday 21st December 2008
Sunday 25th January 2009
Sunday 22nd February 2009
Sunday 22nd March 2009

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BUTCHERS LANE, MEREWORTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Butchers Lane, Mereworth between its junctions with Beech Road and Willow Wents.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 14 days, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via:

For local traffic - Willow Wents, Seven Mile Lane and Beech Road.

For HGV's – A228 Malling Road, A26 Tonbridge Road and Seven Mile Lane.

Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The purpose of the closure is to construct a new water connection to the property numbered 171

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MONTACUTE BRIDGE, KCC No 2162, C348, MONTACUTE ROAD, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that due to limited structural strength of the bridge KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1, 2(4) and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The Order will prohibit any motor vehicle with a maximum gross (fully laden) weight capable of exceeding 3 tonnes to proceed in the length of Montacute Road that is between points 7 metres and 85 metres north of the junction with Linden Gardens

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Invicta House, Maidstone between 8.30am and 5pm and Mondays to Fridays.

NB When the work has been carried out to strengthen the bridge the weight limit will be revoked

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection: In writing to the Structures Manager, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, by 12 noon on Monday 12 May 2008.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A228 MAIDSTONE ROAD, COLTS HILL) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50mph speed limit on following lengths of roads:

A228 Maidstone Road, Colts Hill

Name of Road	Length of Road
Maidstone Road (old A228)	from a point 110 metres west of the junction with A228 Maidstone Road (Pembury northern by-pass) for a distance of 225 metres in a southerly direction
A228 Maidstone Road (Pembury northern by-pass)	from a point 215 metres east of the junction with Maidstone Road to a point 570 metres south west of the junction with Alders Road.
Redwing Lane	from the junction with A228 Maidstone Road to a point 35 metres north of that junction.
A228 Maidstone Road	from the junction with B2017 Badsell Road to a point 580 metres south of that junction.
B2017 Badsell Road	from the junction with A228 Maidstone Road to a point 85 metres east of that junction.
A228 Whetstead Road	from the junction with B2017 Badsell Road to a point 90 metres north of that junction.
B2017 Badsell Road	From the junction with A228 Maidstone Road to a point 120 metres west of that junction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport & Development Manager at Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 12 May 2008.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BARKLEY BRIDGE, KCC No 80, D 1123, ROMDEN ROAD, SMARDEN) (WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that due to limited structural strength of the bridge KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1, 2(4) and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The Order will prohibit any motor vehicle with a maximum gross (fully laden) weight capable of exceeding 3 tonnes to proceed throughout the length of D1123 Romden Road, Smarden over Barkley Bridge (KCC Structure No 80)

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Invicta House, Maidstone between 8.30am and 5pm and Mondays to Fridays.

NB When the work has been carried out to strengthen the bridge the weight limit will be revoked

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection: In writing to the Structures Manager, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, by 12 noon on Monday 12 May 2008.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LANGTON ROAD, LANGTON GREEN, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (ROAD CLOSURE)TEMPORARY OR DER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway work's to take place the Kent County Council has made Order prohibiting the use by traffic on Langton Road, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells from its junction with Coach Road to its junction with Dornden Drive on or after 22nd April 2008 for an estimated period of two days or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative route for the route described above,

Westbound: Coach Road, Rusthall High Street, Long Meads, Dornden Drive.

Eastbound: Dornden Drive, Long Meads, Rusthall High Street, Rusthall Road.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works will start and be completed.

Works to take place between the hours of 22.00 – 05.00.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (ROAD CLOSURE)TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway maintenance works to take place the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 21st April 2008 for an estimated period of one week or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

B2162 Yalding Road/Maidstone Road, Collier Street/Horsmonden from its junction with Spenny Lane to its junction with Churn Lane.	B2162 Yalding Rd, Green Lane, Hunton Rd, Underlyn Lane, B2079 Maidstone Rd/High Street/ Church Green/ West End/ Gouldhurst Rd/ Marden Road, Winchet Hill, Summerhill, Ballards Hill, Goudhurst Road, The Heath and remainder of Maidstone Road
Beech Lane, Brenchley for its entire length.	A21 Hastings Road and Cryals Road.
Perch Lane, Lamberhurst for its entire length.	A21 Hastings Road and Clay Hill Road.
Gore Lane, Goudhurst for its entire length.	Marden Road and Summerhill.
Ruck Lane, Horsmonden from its junction with Lamberhurst Road to its junction with Spelmonden Road.	Lamberhurst Road and Spelmonden Road.
Cock Lane (Ruck Lane), Horsmonden from its junction with Lamberhurst Road to its junction with Marle Place Road.	Lamberhurst Road and Marle Place Road.
B2162 Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden from its junction with Ruck Lane to its junction with Tong Lane.	Lamberhurst Rd, The Heath, Goudhurst Rd, Ballards Hill, Marden Rd, North Rd, The Plain, West Rd, Clayhill, Station Rd, Goudhurst Rd, Horsmonden Rd and remainder of Lamberhurst Rd

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration. Each closure is not expected to last more than one day

Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DUNSTAN ROAD, TUBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dunstan Road between the junctions of Upper Grosvenor Road and Woodbury Park Road on or after Monday 21st April 2008 for an estimated period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Upper Grosvenor Road, Park Road, Woodbury Park Road and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is John Adsley on 07774 983419.

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Qashqai +2 will add to Nissan sales success

NISSAN has set sales records with the impressive Qashqai 'crossover' model, but seems to want more – hence the launch of a seven-seater version in October.

By **STEVE LOADER**

The new variant capitalises on what has been the Japanese marque's most successful launch ever, with a vehicle that seems to be all things to many owners – part family hatchback, part MPV and part SUV cum 4x4 – and a big export earner through European production concentrated at Nissan Sunderland.

The new Qashqai+2 has a wheelbase extended by 135mm to accommodate the extra pair of passengers and fold flat seats, but we wait to see how accessible and accommodating the new arrangement will be.

However, Nissan – having shed the 'boring' label that used to weigh so heavily around its neck – seems confident of its appeal since the +2 line-up will mirror that of the mainstream Qashqai launched last year, offering two petrol and two diesel models, a choice of two and four-wheel drive, plus three trim and equipment levels.

The maker says its research shows that more and more customers needing extra seating are not interested in 'family' SUVs, with a third row of seats – these are perceived as too big and boxy for their needs.

So, where the current five-seat Qashqai generally attracts buyers with no kids or just one, or whose kids have already left the nest, the Qashqai+2 should draw those needing a genuinely practical family car.

Prices will be announced nearer to launch though the 'standard' Qashqai starts at just £13,700 and is currently driving a storming increase in overall Nissan sales so far in 2008, aided by the market appeal of the latest X-Trail SUV and versatile Note family hatchback.

Nissan registrations soared 46 per cent in the first three months and 55 in March – giving the marque a 3.4 per cent share of the UK car market compared to last year's 2.3 per cent and against an overall 0.7 per cent market decline so far this year.

And the gains have not been made by 'dumping' cheap cars into the fleet sector, since sales so far this year into both retail and fleet sectors have risen almost identically according to registration figures.

The company is also currently 'pump priming' further growth with a zero per cent finance offer and savings on certain models.

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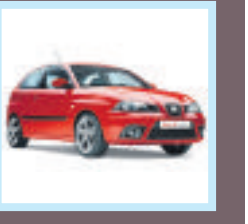
INSIDE

Jeep's winning formula Page 66



Stunning new Seat Ibiza Page 67

Golf Estate is a big hit Pages 72-73

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SHIFT_expectations

Finance subject to status terms and conditions, full written details on request. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers and all current Nissan consumer offers.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Range: Urban 27.7 (10.2) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra-urban 47.1 (6.0) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 37.7 (7.5) – 68.9 (4.1).
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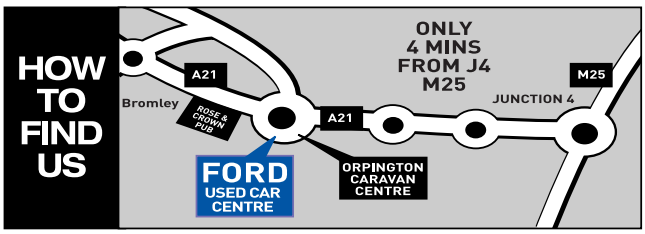

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Jeep recreates a winning formula

IT'S not exactly going back to basics, but Jeep recreates a winning formula with the all-new Cherokee model due in May.

The styling is close to that of the original Cherokee that launched the brand here in 1993; estate car capacity was married to rugged genuine off-road ability in the best Jeep tradition at an affordable price.

The successor to this car – Jeep's current Cherokee – was closer in style to on-road 4x4s like the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V, while still favouring off-road ability over on-road and probably pleasing neither customer camp.

It seems that Jeep now sees the original formula as the better option and is at pains to point out that "on-road ride and handling have been improved and refined with a new independent front suspension, new five-link rear suspension and rack-and-pinion steering".

The new Cherokee will feature an updated version of the now ubiquitous 2.8-litre Mercedes-Benz diesel that has enabled Jeep and other Chrysler Group brands to drive UK sales.

This engine is mated with 'Selec-Trac II' full-time four-wheel drive plus a six-speed manual or five-speed automatic gearbox.

Co-op deal fosters funkier van styles

PREPARE for a major overhaul in the looks of light vans on UK roads, following the latest three-way partnerships between Fiat and Peugeot-Citroën.

The most conspicuous of their co-operative ventures is the sharply-styled new Citroën Nemo, Peugeot Bipper and Fiat Fiorino model, due on sale over the next few weeks.

The Nemo fits between Citroen's lightweight C2 Enterprise van and the newly launched Berlingo First – replacement for the long-running original Berlingo.

Citroën sees the all-new category of van appealing to town-based businesses, with its compact external dimensions, punchy 70bhp 1.4HDi diesel or 75bhp 1.4i petrol engines, economy and efficient suspension/running gear

The Nemo is priced from £7,995 ex VAT – the diesel version is available with Citroen's 'SensoDrive' clutchless automated manual transmission for £9,915 ex VAT.

'Disco' bargains ahead of changes for 2009

LOOK out for possible Land Rover Discovery 3 bargains ahead of the revised 2009 model going on sale in August from £29,950.

Dealers will be keen to clear stock, especially as the new car has exterior changes: new front and rear body colour bumpers, body-coloured wheel arches and revised details including body-coloured tailgate lift handle on the car's distinctive, asymmetric two-piece tailgate.

Land Rover UK MD John Edwards said: 'With almost 100 international awards to date, the Land Rover Discovery 3 has earned itself a reputation as the ultimate all-purpose vehicle. The latest revisions add to an already class-leading package, building on the Discovery 3's unique position as one of the most versatile vehicles on the market."

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1.2 60 BHP LEVEL 1 CAPPUCCINO	£7,520	£8,460	£940
1.2 60 BHP LEVEL 1 BLACK	£7,520	£8,466	£946
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1.2 60 BHP LEVEL 1 SILVER	£7,695	£8,590	£895
1.2 60 BHP LEVEL 1 SILVER	£7,695	£8,590	£895
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1.6 AUTO LEVEL 2 BLUE WITH WHITE ROOF	£10,995	£12,350	£1,355
1.4PD FABIA SPORT BLACK	£11,295	£12,465	£1,170
1.4 TDI 80 BHP LEVEL 3 SILVER	£11,495	£12,795	£1,300
1.4 TDI 80 BHP LEVEL 3 CAPPUCCINO	£11,495	£12,795	£1,300

GET DOWN TO DUTTON FORSHAW

ŠKODA AUTO

Seat goes for the hits with new Ibiza specials

by STEVELOADER

JULY is expected to be launch month for an all-new Seat Ibiza supermini and it is a stunning looking car.

So the heat is on for dealers to shift remaining stocks of the outgoing car, though made easier by the fact that this model is not yet outclassed in the current market.

Demand should also be sustained by what could be the first of several generously-equipped 'specials' from the VW-owned Spanish marque.

The new arrivals are the Ibiza Freerider and Sportrider, both in three-door format.

NEW SEAT IBIZA FIVE-DOOR: Due in July

The £8,995 Freerider comes with a frugal 68bhp three-cylinder 1.2 petrol engine averaging around 45mpg with emissions of 139 g/km of CO2.

With value still rated above 'green-ness' by many buyers though, the standard kit also catches the eye: front fog lights, cruise and climate control, sporty alloys, passenger seat height adjustment and electrically adjustable, heated and folding door mirrors.

The first 300 cars have digital stereo radio entertainment at no extra cost.

Its Sportrider sister (from £9,495) is even more tempting with even more extras and a body kit lifted from the fiery Ibiza FR performance model.

GENEROUS KIT AND GREAT VALUE: Seat Ibiza Sportrider

There is also a choice of engines: a 1.4-litre petrol engine or thrifty yet sporty 1.9-litre TDI diesel – both offering 98bhp.

Despite the approaching axe, the current Ibiza remains Seat's best-selling model and spearheaded the brand's best ever sales for one month – March registrations this year of 6,881 surpassed the previous best of 6,851 sales, set last September.

The other driving performances in this story were Seat's coupe-style family hatchback, the Leon (see separate story), and the sporty Altea MPV family.

Looking ahead, the brand is also expecting much of its ultra-green Ecomotive versions of popular models. Using a combination of better aerodynamics, revised gearing, weight-saving and different tyres, the new Ibiza Ecomotive and forthcoming Leon deliver ultra-low emissions up to 88.3 mpg and 76.3 mpg respectively.

Leon boost with more power and fewer emissions

TURBOCHARGED smaller capacity petrol engines are rapidly becoming the smart way for car makers to retain power output but slash emissions.

This has been underlined by the latest addition to the Seat Leon line-up; the 1.4-litre TSI offers 123bhp against the 100bhp of the existing and similarly priced 'unblown' 1.6-litre Leon and sprints from 0-62mph in 9.8 seconds rather than 11.7, yet the smaller capacity means much lower emissions and fuel consumption.

Excellent pulling power at low revs is further aided by diesel-style direct injection fuelling.

The lower emissions also qualify the car for a drop from the 1.6 model's road tax band-E to band D, cutting the bill from £170 to £145 a year.

The Leon 1.4 TSI is priced from £13,755.

TURBOCHARGED LEON 1.4 TSI: More power yet greener than its conventional equivalent

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Official government fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and Urban/Extra Urban/Combined and CO2 emissions (g/km) for Vauxhall Range are as follows: **Lowest Corsa 1.0 Eco 3dr** 6.3/3.9/4.8/ CO2 115, **Highest Monaro VXR** 21.9/10.3/14.5/ CO2 384. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.

Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) to apply for finance. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, P.O. Box 493, Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers apply to vehicles ordered by April 30th 2008 and are available to private and small business customers only. Cars shown with optional metallic paint an extra £360. Prices shown are cash price - this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All figures correct at time of going to press.

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07 57 Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.0 5 Door Estate 1,000 Miles Silver £13,995
06 06 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDIS 5 Door Estate 12,500 Miles Grey £12,295
06 55 Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.6 VVT 3 Door Green 28,200 miles £7,995

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06 56 Suzuki SX4 1.6 Plus 5 Door Hatchback 15,500 Miles Blue £8,795
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08 08 Suzuki SX4 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Sunlight Copper Delivery miles £9,355
06 06 Suzuki SX4 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Blue 10,500 miles £7,495
08 08 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GL 5 Door Hatchback Silver Delivery miles £9,355
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07 57 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 5 Door Hatchback 2,580 Miles Blue £8,495
07 07 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 5 Door Hatchback 6,000 Miles Green £7,995
07 57 Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3 Door Hatchback 4,200 Miles Red £9,995
07 07 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 5 Door Hatchback 7,000 Miles Blue £8,295
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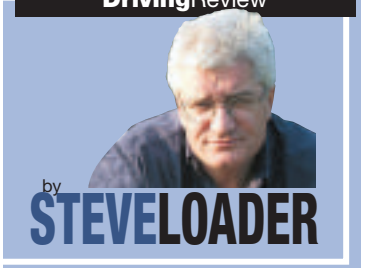
Cut through confusion and drive Golf Estate

DrivingReview



by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

VWGolfEstate

IT'S not hard to imagine the ownership of a Golf Estate causing a tortuous argument between two old buffers after one too many sherbets.

"Yeesss, I've invested in a Golf Estate – marvellous drive…" says buffer number one, rather pompously.

"Lot of money to spend on a passion though! Can't stand it, meself," splutters the other.

"Have you tried it then?" bristles number one – nobody likes their choice of 'motor' to be questioned.

"Didn't that Mark Twain say something about a good walk ruined?" persists number two.

"Well, you have to drive sometimes…" says number two, even more exasperated.

"I'm just not interested in the game," says number one firmly, reaching for another tot.

"Game? What game?" says a confused number one.

Far-fetched perhaps, but the VW Golf Estate is a bit confusing; less like a Golf hatchback and more like a Jetta – the saloon based on the Golf – or a Passat that's been shrunk in the wash.

I said it was confusing, but let us not cloud the fact that the Golf/Jetta Estate is an impressive product, launched last August – some 18 months after the demise of the previous and rather brick-like Golf load lugger.

The latest incarnation is more aerodynamic and elegant enough to pass for a 'lifestyle estate' where ultimate load-carrying ability is compromised by racier lines, yet the VW does have genuine 'crammability'.

True, the tailgate could have been more upright, but the Golf's ultimate 'seats folded' load capacity of 1,550 litres matches its Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra key rivals and surpasses the 1,305 of the Volvo V50.

It falls short of the Skoda Octavia's 1,620 and a cavernous 1,800 offered by the Renault Megane, but neither car matches the status of the VW in the eyes of most buyers.

The VW is also an excellent drive – the Golf platform being one of the best at this level – so there is no sacrifice in handling when opting for the greater practicality of this estate. Nevertheless, the ride is sufficiently well-damped for poorly-maintained rural roads, while contributing to the car's poise on the motorway.

Overall, the car feels well screwed together and the now familiar Golf interior is a masterpiece of understatement, quality and functionality though possibly a bit dour.

The seats are well-shaped and designed, with even the middle passenger in the back getting a reasonable deal while outer passengers enjoy excellent leg and headroom.

But the load compartment is the whole point of the car and its impressive capacity has been bought by an extra 352mm of length compared with the Golf hatchback.

Folding the seats for 'van mode' is simple and there is also an armrest 'ski slot' that is equally easy to bring into use.

Perhaps not surprisingly, more than half of Golf Estate buyers go with VW's familiar 102bhp 1.9 TDI turbodiesel and a 100bhp 1.6 petrol is also offered, but the number two seller is the best option if you can afford it – the 138bhp 2.0 TDI as tested here.

This is a truly sporting diesel engine also powerful enough to cope with a fully laden estate body, yet capable of averaging around 50mpg with just 148gm/km emissions – low enough to place the car in band-C for road tax.

Miserly fuel consumption is no doubt helped by the slippery shape of the car, which also assists motorway cruising refinement.

A lot of people have embraced midi-MPVs, but a smart, entertaining and refined estate car like this makes you question why they shop elsewhere – unless they are confused about the name, of course.

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DrivingStats

- VW Golf Estate SE 2.0-litre TDI £18,075
- Model range: £14,505-18,870
- Garage stats: 4.46m by 1.78m four-door estate
- Powertrain: 1,968cc/138bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a six-speed gearbox
- Performance: top speed 127mph and 0-62mph in 9.8 seconds
- How green?: CO2 emissions/148g per km, band-C road tax £120
- Official fuel figures: combined 50.4mpg
- Fuel tank: 55 litres/12.1 gallons
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Insurance group: 12E
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Website: www.volkswagen.co.uk
- Rivals: Ford Focus, Renault Megane, Skoda Octavia, Vauxhall Astra and Volvo V50

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TODAY TOMORROW TOYOTA

Model and specification shown New Yaris SR 1.3VVT-i 3 door manual manufacturer's list price £10,995. *Advertised finance offer available on Yaris SR 1.3 VVT-i 3 door manual when ordered, registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, on a Personal Contract Purchase Drive Plan, minimum 15% deposit between 1st April 2008 and 30th June 2008 at participating Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Price correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability.
Yaris 1.3 VVT-i manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3), Combined 47.1 (6.0). CO2 Emissions 141 g/km.

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Model shown is Fabia 1 1.2 60bhp at £7,900 RRP.

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1554, FLAMENCO RED
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57 FABIA 1 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH
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57 FABIA 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR HATCH
TBA, CORRIDA RED
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57 FABIA 3 1.9 TDI 105BHP 5DR HATCH
TBA, SATIN GREY
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(DELIVERY MILES ONLY)

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08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH
0, SATIN GREY
COST NEW £10,190.00 SAVING £1,500.00
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08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH
0, BRILLIANT SILVER
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08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH
0, CORRIDA RED
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PRICE TO YOU £8,930.00

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08 FABIA 2 1.4 TDI 80BHP 5DR HATCH
0, SATIN GREY
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08 FABIA 2 1.4 TDI 80BHP 5DR HATCH
0, ANTHRACITE GREY
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27739, SAHARA BEIGE
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05 FABIA CLASSIC 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH
23319, NATURE GREEN
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05 FABIA CLASSIC 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH
21941, SAHARA BEIGE
PRICE TO YOU £5,990.00

06 FABIA CLASSIC 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH
12144, GRAPHITE GREY
PRICE TO YOU £6,490.00

56 FABIA CLASSIC 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH
8791, ANTHRACITE GREY
PRICE TO YOU £6,490.00

04 FABIA COMFORT 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH
34278, DIAMOND SILVER
PRICE TO YOU £5,290.00

04 FABIA COMFORT 1.4 TDI 80BHP 5DR HATCH
35313, DIAMOND SILVER
PRICE TO YOU £4,990.00

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18889, BLACK MAGIC
PRICE TO YOU £5,490.00

06 FABIA AMBIENTE 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH
10621, STONE GREY
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05 FABIA AMBIENTE 1.4 16V 100BHP 5DR HATCH
22607, CORRIDA RED
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15220, BLACK MAGIC
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6456, SATIN GREY
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9338, DIAMOND SILVER
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05 FABIA CLASSIC 1.9 SDI 68BHP 5DR ESTATE
31147, STONE GREY
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TBA, STONE GREY
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TBA, RACE BLUE
COST NEW £21,420.00
SAVING £4,930.00
PRICE TO YOU £16,490.00

57 OCTAVIA L&K 2.0 FSI 150BHP AUTO 5DR ESTATE
TBA, FLAMENCO RED
COST NEW £20,380.00
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PRICE TO YOU £15,990.00

UN-REGISTERED OCTAVIA

(DELIVERY MILES ONLY)

57 OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI 5DR HATCH
0, SATIN GREY
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SAVING £1,545.00
PRICE TO YOU £14,590.00

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CANDY WHITE
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54 OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.6 FSI 115BHP 5DR HATCH
TBA
DIAMOND SILVER
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13396
CAPPUCCINO BEIGE
PRICE TO YOU £12,490.00

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13371
SATIN GREY
PRICE TO YOU £11,490.00

06 OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI DSG 105BHP 5DR HATCH
37680
FLAMENCO RED
PRICE TO YOU £10,290.00

07 OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 TDI 140BHP 5DR HATCH
9614
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7917
ANTHRACITE GREY
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05 OCTAVIA VRS 1.8 20V TURBO 180BHP 5DR HATCH
32082, DIAMOND SILVER
PRICE TO YOU £9,490.00

06 OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI 200BHP 5DR HATCH
11478, DIAMOND SILVER
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5556
STORM BLUE
COST NEW £12,420.00
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PRICE TO YOU £8,490.00

57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR MPV
6134
CAPPUCCINO BEIGE
COST NEW £13,020.00
SAVING £3,530.00
PRICE TO YOU £9,490.00

57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV
TBA
ANTHRACITE GREY
COST NEW £13,280.00
SAVING £3,790.00
PRICE TO YOU £9,490.00

57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV
1943
FLAMENCO RED
COST NEW £13,250.00
SAVING £3,760.00
PRICE TO YOU £9,490.00

57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV
5774
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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda Range: Urban 18.1 (15.6) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra-urban 37.2 (7.6) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 26.9 (10.5) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions for the Škoda Range 109 – 253g/km.

*Minimum 30% deposit required. †Available on Octavia Classic and Ambiente models only. Retail sales only. Offers and prices available to over 18s for registrations and orders taken from 1st April 2008 and before 30th June 2008 (subject to availability). Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Škoda Finance is a trading name of Volkswagen Financial Services (UK) Limited, Freepost VWFS.

ALFA ROMEO

147, JTD Q2, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, grey, 8000 miles, £14995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

147 1.6, T Spark, 2001, red, 50685 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

156, 1.9 Jtd Turismo 4dr Saloon, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, automatic electric windows, electric mirrors, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, alloy wheels, metallic grey, 49000 miles, £5990, Kent TDi Centre, Maidstone, 01622 750022 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, SE 5dr, remote central locking, alarm, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, traction control, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, blue, 56300 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

A2, SE 5dr, climate control, remote alarm, remote central locking, power steering, anti-theft system, folding rear seats, cloth upholstery, rear headrests, radio cassette, uk specification, uk supplied, 16'' alloys, aluminium silver, 66440 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

A3, 1.6 Sport Fsi 5dr, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, head restraints, lumbar support, sports seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, climate control, multi-disc cd player, uk specification, uk supplied, 17'' alloys, grey, 22067 miles, £12650, Lifestyle Ford Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446514 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi (140) Sport 3dr, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, cd player, alloy wheels, metallic grey, 64000 miles, £10490, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

A4, 2.0 SE, 2001 manual g/box, stunning met diamond black coachwork with contrasting cream fleck trim, absolutely mint condition bargain at £6995 now £6395, diamond black, 49000 miles, £6395, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9tdi 130 se estate, 2003, blue m with grey cloth, 67000 miles, £8950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 120d SE 5dr, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, power assisted steering, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:14, black, 27511 miles, £15994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

3, 2002, grey, 62684 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, - 316ti Se 3dr, silver, 2003, 34976 miles, manual, petrol, 3 doors, 2 previous owners, silver, £7995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i SE, parking sensor, front fog lamps, rear headrests, remote central locking, alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, centre armrest, traction control, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, auto-dip rearview, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, cruise control, trip computer, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, silver, 79000 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i SE Auto, remote central locking, alarm, parking sensor, front fog lamps, rear headrests, centre armrest, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, auto-dip rearview, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, abs, power steering, trip computer, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, green/blue, 29100 miles, £8995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318 Ci Sport 2dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, central locking, air conditioning, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, rear headrests, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, trip computer, quick-clear screen, metallic paintwork, automatic electric windows, climate control, cd player, stereo, steering wheel audio controls, radio, 18'' alloys, met blue, 73020 miles, £11799, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318ti SE 3dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, air conditioning, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, parking sensor, alloy wheels, grey met, 32272 miles, £10999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

318, 2003, mauritus blue, 25478 miles, £10995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

320 2.0, TD SE 6 Speed, 2004, black, 51000 miles, £9995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr, 2004, 1.4i sx 5dr hatch, blue, 28000 miles, £6295, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr Auto, 2004, 1.4i sx 5dr auto hatch, silver, 30770 miles, £6495, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16V SX 5dr Auto, 2007, 1.6i 16v sx 5dr auto hatch, silver, 1000 miles, £9995, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Code 2dr, 2007, 1.4i code 2dr pluriel convertible special eds, silver, 1000 miles, £9495, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4 HDi 16V SX 5dr, 2004, 1.4 hdi 16v sx 5dr diesel hatch, blue, 63973 miles, £6250, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Cool 5dr, 1.4i cool 5dr hatch special edition, arctic steel, 1000 miles, £7995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16V SX 5dr Auto, 2007, 1.6i 16v sx 5dr auto hatch, arctic steel, 4000 miles, £8495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr, 2005, 1.6 hdi 16v exclusive 5dr diesel hatch, oriental blue, 29029 miles, £6995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr Auto, 2003, 1.4i sx 5dr auto hatch, tuscan blue, 19684 miles, £5995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6HDi 16V SX [110] 5dr EGS, 2007, 1.6hdi 16v sx [110] 5dr egs diesel hatch, wicked red, 2500 miles, £12495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6i 16V SX 5dr, 1.6i 16v sx 5dr hatch, black, 1000 miles, £11495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6i 16V SX 5dr Auto, 2005, 1.6i 16v sx 5dr auto hatch, normandy green, 13568 miles, £7995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

DODGE

CALIBER, 1.8 SE 5dr, 14/04/2007, cd player power steering electric windows, black, 5700 miles, £8499, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Sport, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, red, 3000 miles, £10495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, Lounge Multijet, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, sunroof, trip computer, cha cha azure blue, 2000 miles, £10595, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 150, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, symphony blue, 10 miles, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Dynamic, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, metallic paint, blue, 7000 miles, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, ELX 16V, 2000, met green, £2495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Active 1.2, 2003, silver, 45000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.4 Style 5dr (2005 -), 15/03/2007, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 8924 miles, £7999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia 5dr, 22/03/2006, cd player abs leather hood cover driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 23270 miles, £7999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 3dr [Climate] (2005 -), 03/09/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 7031 miles, £8999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr (2002 - 2005), 17/07/2004, cd player driver airbag electric windows, silver, 31968 miles, £5999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Zetec S 3dr (2005 -), 06/04/2006, cd player abs leather hood cover driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 32914 miles, £7999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 TDCi Zetec S 3dr (2005-), 04/04/2007, cd player leather hood cover alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 14562 miles, £10999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

FOCUS, LX 5dr, 5948079, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, air conditioning, radio cassette, twin air bags, power steering, cloth upholstery, white, 66200 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec 5dr Auto, lr54 vvl, remote central locking, alarm, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, blue, 29200 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style 3dr, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, air bag, uk specification, uk supplied, head restraints, folding rear seats, metallic paintwork, panther black, 6000 miles, £5400, Lifestyle Ford Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446514 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style 3dr, gd07fdx, central locking, immobiliser, power steering, electric front windows, air bag, abs, cd player, colour coded interior, colour coded body, uk specification, uk supplied, panther black (metallic), 6000 miles, £5200, Lifestyle Ford Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446514 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style 3dr, gd07fem, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, air bag, uk supplied, uk specification, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, radio cassette, tango red, 6000 miles, £5200, Lifestyle Ford Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446514 (TRADE)

HONDA

CR-V, ES, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, remote alarm, velour trim, head restraints, air bag, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, uk supplied, 16'' alloys, 4x4, smoke silver, 70000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CR-V, LS, 362461, electric windows, immobiliser, power steering, air conditioning, sunroof, air bag, cloth upholstery, remote central locking, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, stereo, 4x4, blue, 70000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0 I-Vtec Sport 5dr, cosmic grey, 2006, 5840 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, grey, £13995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT 1.3, 2002, silver, 41625 miles, £2995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 Auto, ls03 ksx, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, parking sensor, rear headrests, full leather, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric seats, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric handbrake, traction control, cd player, radio, air conditioning, climate control, cruise control, twin air bags, curtain airbags, abs, trip computer, centre armrest, alloy wheels, blue, 58700 miles, £8995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDi LE Automatic Diesel, 2006, insurance group 9 abs air conditioning body power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails steering wheel rake adjustment, cool silver, 17780 miles, £8495, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

CARENS, 1.8 LX, 2004, insurance group 8 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cassette rear electric windows remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment, imperial blue, 39000 miles, £4295, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 Sport Kompressor, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior.full sport pack. lilac/blue, 57, 000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A160 2.0 CDI Diesel Classic SE new shape auto, 1470077, remote alarm, centre armrest, folding rear seats, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, abs, multiple airbags, atoll blue metallic, 12000 miles, £12995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A140 Classic, 1496077, remote alarm, remote central locking, rear headrests, abs, multiple airbags, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, blue, 48000 miles, £3495, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, F Vvc Sports, bd51svy, full leather, power steering, air bag, immobiliser, electric windows, cd player, stereo, uk specification, 16'' alloys, green, 90000 miles, £4299, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MGF, alarm, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, half leather, head restraints, lumbar support, sports seats, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, radio cassette, alloy wheels, silver green, 26612 miles, £4495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 3dr, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, remote central locking, alarm, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, abs, power steering, twin air bags, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, black, 37800 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, electric front windows, multi-disc cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, british racing green, 24000 miles, £9499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2005, abs body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front head restraints height isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag radio/cd multichanger rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking service indicator side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, metallic silver, 35340 miles, £10995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

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£730.44	£14225.44	Based on 12,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charged at 6 pence per mile.

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Official fuel consumption figures mpg(l/100km) for range shown: urban 26.6-54.3 (5.2-10.6); extra urban 44.1-72.4 (3.9-6.4); combined 35.8-64.2 (4.4-7.9). Official CO2 emission figures range from 35.8-64.2g/km.

Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status. † Metallic paint available at extra cost. All cars are on the road including 6 months road fund licence. *Price Promise on UK specification and supplied cars only and upon appropriate evidence. This advertisement supersedes all previously advertised offers.

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 Elegance Automatic, 2005, abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights half leather seats heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip c omputer, steel grey, 950 miles, £7750, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.1 CZ1, 2006, abs body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, lunar silver, 3500 miles, £5995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.3 CZ2, 2006, abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, lunar silver, 12000 miles, £6499, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, Sport, 2000 x, 2000 x-reg 75,000 miles, taxed until end june. mot until september. nearly new front tyres, power steering, abs, air conditioning, central locking, electric front windows. a very reliable car which has not let me down, selling due to company car. contact rob on 01634 232929, metallic red, £2200, Gillingham, 01634232929 (PRIVATE)

MICRA, 1.0 16v S Hatchback 3dr, y/2001, £2895, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v S Hatchback 5dr auto, 06/2006, 13,000 miles, £5795, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 1.2, 2005, aruba blue metalic with grey high velour, 20000 miles, £4995, UM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 1.2, 2005, blade silver with grey high velour, 24000 miles, £4995, UM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 SE Automatic, 2004, techno grey, 22500 miles, £4995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

PRIMERA, 1.8i S 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, central locking, climate control, electric front windows, electric windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, alloy wheels, ice blue met, 25432 miles, £7999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

107, Urban, anti-lock brakes, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, black, 9195 miles, £5795, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

206, XSi, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, trip computer, moonstone, 26500 miles, £4995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

206, LX 5dr, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, child locks, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, panoramic sunroof, radio cassette, green metallic, 90221 miles, £2695, Kent Motorvation, Maidstone, 01622 600 456 (TRADE)

206, GTi 3dr, remote central locking, half leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, auto lighting, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, uk supplied, 16'' alloys, blue, 52000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RENAULT

MEGANE, Scenic Expression+ 16v, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, beigebuff, 55000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MEGANE, Extreme 16v 3dr, central locking, immobiliser, power steering, cloth upholstery, head restraints, air bag, colour coded body, electric windows, cd player, stereo, red, 40000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MEGANE, Extreme dCi 3dr, central locking, air conditioning, power steering, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, electric mirrors, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, 15'' alloys, blue, 74000 miles, £4499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 1.5 dCi 106 Oasis 5dr hatch special eds, blue, 33034 miles, £6495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 1.9 Dci 120 Dynamique 5dr, blue, 2003, 44000 miles, manual, diesel, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, blue, £5489, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 1.6 DYNA, finished in silver with interior manual, silver, 12000 miles, £7995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, 1.4 GSi 5dr [103Ps], 25/03/2005, cd player alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 10772 miles, £5999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

25, Impression S 3 5dr, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, remote central locking, cd player, radio, air conditioning, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, green, 32700 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

25 1.6, IXL, 2001, blue, 54477 miles, £3495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

SEAT

LEON, 1.9TDI Stylance Hatchback 5dr, 08/2008, fog lights tinted windows climate control rear parking sensors, black magic, 1, 000 miles, £14, 445, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

LEON, 2.0 16V TDI Stylance 5dr, 01/03/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 14271 miles, £12999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, Elegance 16v, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric front windows, power steering, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, rear headrests, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, stereo, uk supplied, 15'' alloys, black, 50000 miles, £4699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FABIA, Elegance 16v 5dr, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, front fog lamps, twin air bags, abs, traction control, adjustable steering column, electric windows, air conditioning, radio cassette, all of our vehicles are supplied with 12 month warrent and 12 months mot, aluminium silver, 14631 miles, £6495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

FABIA, Classic 5dr, immobiliser, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, radio cassette, all of our vehicles are supplied with 12 month warrent and 12 months mot, blue, 34795 miles, £4495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

FABIA, Comfort 16v 5dr, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, power steering, abs, air bag, air conditioning, electric front windows, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, alloy wheels, all of our vehicles are supplied with 12months warrenty and 12months mot, blue, 49872 miles, £4495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

AYGO, 1.0 VVT-i + 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear headrests, power steering, metallic paintwork, radio, stereo, astrol grey met, 9968 miles, £6999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

CELICA, St, remote central locking, air conditioning, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, radio cassette, rear spoiler, 16'' alloys, copper bronze, 64000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CELICA, VVT-I, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, power steering, abs, air bag, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 50000 miles, £7699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CELICA, Vvti, 2006, red, 20000 miles, £11495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

YARIS, GS 3dr, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, electric windows, air bag, stereo, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, blue, 70000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

YARIS, GS VVT-I 5dr, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio, uk supplied, red, 70000 miles, £4499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 2006, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs alloy wheels drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors front electric windows side airbags space saver spare wheel sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer, star silver, 19143 miles, £9495, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 2006, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs alloy wheels drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors front electric windows front fog lights front head restraints heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points lumbar support pas passenger airbag rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking service indicator side airbags space saver spare wheel sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer, black sapphire p, 27331 miles, £9995, WJ King Vauxhall, Welling, 020 8303 1234 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 2005, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs cloth seat trim drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows front head restraints height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking service indicator side airbags space saver spare wheel steel wheels steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer, ultra blue, 27515 miles, £6995, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01322 227581 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 2005, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs electric door mirrors front electric windows front head restraints heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag trip computer, star silver, 35205 miles, £6495, WJ King Vauxhall, Gravesend, 01474 565656 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

BEETLE, 8v 3dr, front fog lamps, remote central locking, alarm, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, abs, power steering, electric front windows, electric mirrors, multi-disc cd player, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, blue, 58300 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BEETLE, 8v 3dr, rear headrests, remote central locking, alarm, centre armrest, traction control, air conditioning, electric front windows, radio cassette, twin air bags, electric mirrors, abs, power steering, multi-disc cd player, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, silver, 60700 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BEETLE, 1.9 TDi 3dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, central locking, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric mirrors, shadow blue met, 11893 miles, £11999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.9 TDi (100) PD 5dr, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, automatic electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 59000 miles, £5990, Kent TDi Centre, Maidstone, 01622 750022 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.9 TDI SE (105) 5dr, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 74000 miles, £7990, Kent TDi Centre, Maidstone, 01622 750022 (TRADE)

GOLF, SE 5dr, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, red, 66000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

VOLVO

C70, 2.0 T 2dr, abs, air bag, side air bags, alarm, climate control, cruise control, electric front windows, cd player, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp wash/wipe, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, twin air bags, automatic electric windows, power hood, electric windows, air conditioning, dual climate zones, stereo, radio, radio cassette, 17'' alloys, blue, 45684 miles, £7499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

S40, SE, 2005, black metallic, 51000 miles, £8495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

S40, Auto, rear headrests, remote central locking, alarm, electric front windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, cd player, radio, air conditioning, twin air bags, curtain airbags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, red, 37800 miles, £4695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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County tourism could cash in on strong euro

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

A STRONG euro could spell boom time for Kent firms involved in tourism and catering – they've got a great opportunity to attract people from the rest of the continent.

And Visit Kent, the new organisation spearheading the county's tourism initiatives, is already on the ball and launching a major awareness campaign across the Channel in the summer.

With Eurostar this week saying that revenues and traveller numbers are reaching records, the county has a marvellous chance to cash in while it can, and, of course, to also take advantage of ferry and air links.

Now Visit Kent, which has been formed from Kent Tourism Alliance, the private and public sector partnership, and KCC's Kent Tourism, says it will be unveiling its A La Carte campaign in a couple of months' time.

The core of the thrust is a multi-lingual map – hence the tag line – of the county with all its attractions which will be shown and distributed using all the cross-Channel operators, travel offices and the travel trade.

Ruth Wood, Visit Kent's research and development manager, said: "We want visitors from across the Channel to explore Kent and the area around the county to see all there is on offer rather than just going on the motorway."

Ms Wood said more visitors are coming to sites such as Leeds Castle, Canterbury and leisure facilities around the Port of Dover.

Eurostar announced 2.17 million travellers rode on its trains in the first three months of this year – a record and a rise of more than 21 per cent – while revenues rocketed by a record 25 per cent to £178.4 million.

PROFITS: Eurostar passenger numbers rose by 21 per cent in the first three months of 2008

Although the company couldn't break down figures by country, about 55 per cent of passengers were outward travellers. Of those coming in, the French form the largest group, then the Belgians and other Europeans, plus those from the US, Far East, South Korea and Japan.

A spokesman said it was too early to say if the strong euro was beginning to attract more visitors from the rest of Europe to Kent or elsewhere in the UK.

He said a review of the whole of the Eurostar service – such as how Ebbsfleet was fitting into the service and the impact of the changes at Ashford International – would be carried out in "late spring".

A survey it carried out also signals that one in 20 people said that over the next year or so, environmental concerns mean they are planning to switch from plane to train for journeys within the UK or to closer European destinations.

Eurostar's high-speed passenger train service links St Pancras International, Ebbsfleet International, Ashford International, Paris Gare du Nord, Brussels-Midi, Lille, Calais, Disneyland Resort Paris, Avignon and the French Alps.

Tourism-related firms can get free billing on the Visit Kent website – for details telephone 01227 862780.

ALL ABOARD: P&O is the most popular ferry operator with county's travellers

Ferry popular

FERRIES are edging ahead in the fierce competition to take Kent people to the continent, according to a survey by independent market research initiative Local Opinion.

More than nine out of 10 Kent residents have crossed the Channel at some time: 69 per cent for a day trip, 85 per cent on holiday; and nearly 20 per cent for work.

Nearly 43 per cent prefer to travel by ferry, while 37 per cent prefer to take their cars across on Eurotunnel. Another 37 per cent prefer to fly, while fast ferries account for 6.5 per cent and the opening of St Pancras and Ebbsfleet have boosted Eurostar's share of the local market to 24.3 per cent.

P&O is the most popular ferry company among Kent residents, scoring 77.8 per cent, followed by SeaFrance (36.6 per cent), Speed Ferries (10.8 per cent) and Norfolk Line (8.2 per cent).

Twice as many who chose to fly picked EasyJet (38 per cent) rather than Ryannair (19 per cent), with the two budget operators accounting for about half the flights.

There remains plenty of business out there for the cross-Channel operators to compete for: 29.3 per cent said they crossed the Channel once a year, 21.1 per cent twice a year, 14.1 per cent three times a year, six per cent four times a year and 11.8 per cent more than four times a year.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fashion chain moves to big fat new store

LIFESTYLE brand Fat Face has made a move in Canterbury to a brand new store at 5 The Parade.

The brand has been trading successfully in the city for more than 10 years. Each Fat Face store has an outdoor adventure theme running throughout.

Store manager, Christine Rackley, said: "We already have a core fan base in Canterbury and I'm sure the store will be an even greater success. It is double the size of the current store."

Hospital clinches top employer award

STAFF at Kent's Benenden Hospital have rated it the UK's Number One Independent Employer of the Year in the Nursing Times Top 100 awards – the second year running it has carried off the accolade.

The hospital, near Cranbrook, also took third place in the Nursing Times overall competition, which is open to NHS and independent employers, charities, care homes, the armed forces and others who employ nurses.

The Nursing Times judges were particularly impressed that Benenden offers its nursing staff family-friendly hours, ongoing training and education, and free on-site parking.

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Pickfords moves to allay staff job fears

'Business as usual' for firm despite takeover

By TONY PATEY
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BOSSES at Pickfords, England's largest and oldest firm of removals which has a depot in Maidstone, have reassured staff over jobs following a takeover by Europe's leading moving group.

The fire sale of loss-making Pickfords to the Team Group came after its American owner, Sirva Inc, said it needed a cash injection to stay afloat and risked being wound up unless a buyer could be found.

There are about a dozen employees at Maidstone. But a Pickfords spokeswoman said that it was "business as usual" for the firm.

She said: "It is business as usual with the focus on growing the business and taking it back to its heyday. It is impossible to speculate in terms of jobs, and they are reviewing the business, but for the foreseeable future it is business as usual.

"They are very positive and upbeat and these are very exciting times in terms of moving forward."

The well-known company goes back to at least the 1690s when the Pickfords family was involved in mending roads.

They owned a quarry, moving stone by a train of packhorses. Instead of returning to the quarry empty, the horses carried goods for others and Pickfords became a carrier for the first time.

In 1776 Pickfords invented the fly wagon, named for its speed, carrying goods and passengers, for example, from London to Manchester in four-and-a-half days, travelling just over 42 miles a day.

With the increased use of lorries in the early 20th century, Pickfords became one of the most well-known brand names in the UK and in 2002 it became part of Sirva, the largest moving, storage and relocation company in the world.

Team, run by American-born Frank Grace, is thought to have paid a nominal sum for Pickfords – usual in such situations – in return for taking on the company's growing debts, a £10 million pension deficit and an Irish-based insurance division heavily dependent on inter-company loans.

Already, other removals companies including Clockwork Group Holdings, a Scottish-based firm, are known to be interested in buying Pickfords' core UK removals business from Team, according to City reports.

Mr Yogesh Mehta, Team group managing director said: "We are pleased to have concluded this transaction, which is another significant piece in our corporate plan.

"We will naturally continue to operate Pickfords under that famous brand and feel sure our expertise within this core market will ensure renewed success for this fine company."

Kevin Pickford, managing director of Pickfords, warmly welcomed the development and said: "I am delighted with the news that the transaction has completed.

"We are looking forward to working with the Team group, to continue to serve our customers and to advance the business in the next exciting phase of its development".

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Cash injection to aid business research

GREAT news for local business and academia – a University of Kent research centre has been awarded £100,000 worth of funding to enable it to develop even closer ties with the business community.

The award to the Centre for Employment, Competitiveness and Growth – one of the key research centres based at the University's Kent Business School – was made by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), as part of a business engagement scheme.

The Government-funded scheme provides greater opportunities for academics and researchers to work alongside businesses and to share knowledge and skills, with the aim of improving productivity and efficiency.

Now the centre aims to provide increased support and advice for companies in Kent and Medway through an online business forum, a range of University-based leadership and management workshops and an increased programme of networking opportunities.

It will also work with several organisations – including the Federation of Small Businesses, Business Link and global consultancy Telos Partners – to offer greater support to micro businesses (those employing 10 or fewer people) and to develop improved management practices and business performance models.

FUNDS: The Centre for Employment, Competitiveness and Growth

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Bosses admit they would like another roll of the dice

Gloomy forecasts fail to dent business leaders' confidence

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO out of three South East businesspeople say they would start their businesses all over again today if they had to – despite the economic climate. And four out of five are confident about the future.

The very bullish – that is, strongly positive – research by The Credit Show, the UK's largest credit exhibition and conference, shows that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) plan to expand domestic sales by an average 56 per cent in the coming year.

Just under a half plan to expand into a new area in the next 12 months and a further 37 per cent will recruit new staff. More than one in three plan to launch a new product or service and only one per cent plan to scale back their operations.

Pressure

There's a real split, however, about the effects of the credit squeeze on their businesses, with some SMEs noticing the effects and others apparently untouched.

The report shows that 28 per cent say that they are now finding it harder to borrow from a bank, while 38 per cent admit to not noticing the credit crunch.

But some SMEs are undoubtedly feeling the pressure of the squeeze. More than a half – 56 per cent – say that suppliers have increased prices. This could have a huge impact on the supply chain, affecting further businesses throughout the UK.

With many facing weakening demand, only 18 per cent say customers are buying more on credit, and more than half of SMEs (55 per cent) admit that their customers are more and more frequently looking for deals or asking for discounts.

Kamala Panday, publisher of Credit Today, organisers of show, at London's Olympia, from May 14-15, said: "Businesses are now playing a more strategic game, with over half admitting to chasing slower payers more vigorously."

'Insure against the credit crunch'

FIRMS owed a lot of money should be looking at comprehensive credit insurance especially with the global credit squeeze, says a leading insurance broker Smart & Cook, part of AXA UK offshoot Venture Preference.

Terry Rees, managing director of Smith & Cook's credit insurance brokers, said: "From everyday annoyances like late bill payment, right through to serious issues like insolvency, foreclosure, bad debt and bankruptcy – all will climb steadily as the UK economy tightens over the course of the year."

Typically up to 40 per cent of a company's current assets consist of the money owed to them by their customers, with most of that coming from just a fifth of the business's client base.

Not protecting that debt could have potentially devastating effects and recovering money lost to bad debts can be difficult, as it must be replaced by profit and not simply turnover.

On a typical profit ratio of five per cent, a bad debt of £10,000 would require a substantial £200,000 of turnover to recover.

Mr Rees said: "Part of the insurance professional's job is education. They have to ensure that all clients are fully aware of the risks they run every time they raise a purchase order and issue an invoice."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Go that extra tile for harbour regeneration

LOCAL businesspeople and schoolchildren are being offered the chance to make their mark on the refurbishment of Margate Harbour Arm, by creating a wall of tiles named A Postcard From Margate.

The scheme has been set up by operators of the project and their main tenant, Isle of Thanet Arts (IOTA).

Children are being encouraged to use the rich diversity of the area's marine and coastal wildlife as inspiration for their designs.

Each tile will cost £70 to sponsor and will show the business name or logo on a strip across the bottom. The sponsor must then pick schoolchildren to paint the tile.

Call IOTA on 01843 853117 or email phil@iota-arts.org.uk for more information.

Extra staff needed as holiday firm expands

HOLIDAY Extras, the UK market leader in airport hotel bookings and parking, has announced a huge recruitment drive.

Up to 75 new people could soon be working at the company's offices near Hythe.

The jobs will include opportunities in the web team, new business, sales and commercial departments.

Callum Husein, group head of the firm's People Team, said: "Our business is growing fast and we are particularly looking for those with web-based technology skills to join us and keep fuelling our success."

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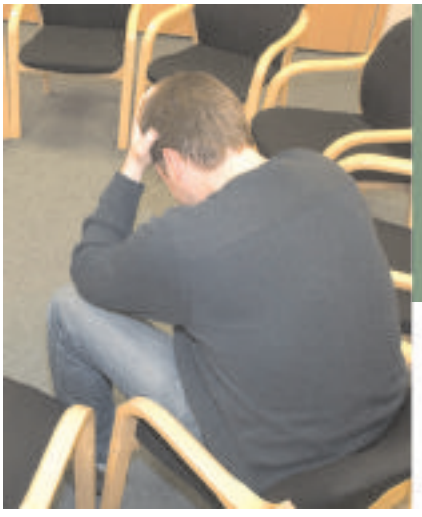

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Impact better by design

CLIENT service has been taken to a higher level with Impact, which describes itself as an integrated, full service agency offering a complete range of marketing disciplines.

Businesses it has dealt with say it defines what professionalism should feel like and it brings the London agency-feel to Kent, and specifically to Marden, where they set-up shop two years ago following a management buy-out.

Owners Wayne Hall (right), creative services director, and Mark Hargrave-Smith (left), managing and client services director, work to their key strengths, not just in terms of their creative output, but also in client services.

With Mr Hargrave-Smith taking direct responsibility for client services, the agency boasts household names such as Thistle & Guoman Hotels, Honda Finance, Marley as well as local brands RBLI, and Outback UK.

It was the best performing full service agency in the South East outside of London in the prestigious 2006 Design Week Top 100 Survey.

Here the two talk to KOS Media's business publisher, Richard Parsons.

Q ***Why did you undertake the management buy-out in the first place?***

A The original owners were looking to take a step back from the overall management of the business. We had grown up with the business and had new ideas and fresh strategies to take things forward.

We had grown out of the premises that we had been operating from East Farleigh and decided on the move to a purpose-designed unit in Marden where we have been able to grow the business which now has some 38 staff. We have been able to expand our working portfolio and have increased our annual turnover to around £5 million.

Q ***How have you made a difference in terms of the energy you put into client services?***

A In our view it is vital we pay very close attention to our clients and their requirements from the outset.

We need to have an in-depth understanding of what exactly the client is looking to achieve and what their key objectives are.

This means spending time with the client and really getting under the skin of their business.

We will dedicate one of our teams specifically to the client and include on that team an account director; a production manager, a creative director, a new media director as well as supporting account and creative team members.

Many of our clients have now been with us for some time, but there are times when clients ask us to re-pitch for business particularly in the face of opposition from London agencies.

We enjoy these challenges and with our staff enjoy the buzz of pitting ourselves against big names and coming out on top.

Q ***What about the creative side of the business?***

A The creative side of the business accounts for some 70 per cent of our turnover and we have invested heavily, some £1.2m over the past four years, ensuring we have the right tools for the job.

Q ***What is your message to clients and business in general during times of economic stress?***

A It is true that in times of economic upheaval some businesses will look to create savings through reducing their marketing spend.

However, we believe the more far-sighted businesses will look closely at economic downturns and see within the downturn an opportunity.

We actually advise and work with clients on how to make best use of their budgets to maximise opportunities so they are taking positive steps forward while their competitors sit out the storm.

Through positive and creative interventions we feel we are able to keep our clients ahead of the game. If you look at some of the major brands such as Coca Cola or Fosters they have all maintained their marketing messages even when the going has been tough and we try to drive similar key messages to our clients.

Q ***What about your 21st anniversary?***

A It's a real milestone for our business. We haven't yet decided on how to celebrate, but it will clearly be about our staff and our clients.

We are sure it will be a party not to miss. However, our focus is fixed on the start of the next 21 years where we intend to continue to grow, to invest and remain a real force in our marketplace.

• Impact can be viewed at www.impact-im.co.uk or called on 01622 833880.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

After taking control of marketing company Impact through a management buy-out, **Wayne Hall** and **Mark Hargrave-Smith** have established values which ensure that clients needs, old and new, are individually catered for to the highest standards

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College helps to provide the bedrock for a top business

By **PAT CRAWFORD**
of Hadlow College

NOT so very many years ago, relatively few laws existed to protect the safety of employees, most especially those working in the rural sector.

Accidents were commonplace and the vast majority related to lack of training in regard to the equipment being used – tractors, chainsaws, spraying equipment and the like.

In virtually all business sectors there was a noticeable lack of personnel trained to undertake risk assessments.

When accidents resulting in injuries did occur, a lot of businesses lacked staff with the knowledge needed to give effective emergency aid. A sorry state of affairs.

Fortunately, those days have gone.

Today, legislation exists that covers the use of chainsaws, tractors, spraying equipment and other potentially dangerous equipment.

The National Proficiency Test Council (NPTC) certificates, recognised by the Health and Safety Executive, are valid for life and are important in the event of an accident that results in an insurance claim.

'First Aid Appointed Person' and 'First Aid at Work' courses ensure that effective emergency aid is available in workplace situations.

A new course, Health and Safety in the Workplace, covers the measures employees need to take to ensure their own safety and that of customers, contractors and the public.

The majority of employers take their responsibilities seriously, as a result of which there are far fewer accidents – and those that do occur are generally dealt with promptly and effectively.

And it isn't only in relation to health and safety that things in the workplace are evolving and improving.

The bedrock of every successful business is the calibre and skills of its workforce – and today's managers are well aware of the necessity of progressive training.

SAFE AND SOUND: Hadlow College offers a range of courses to fulfil the needs of land-based companies to improve your workforce

Hadlow, one of the UK's most successful land-based colleges, offers an extensive range of courses to fulfil the needs of the land-based and other business sectors.

These include courses leading to NPTC certificates, NVQ qualifications in retail, the customer services industry, food hygiene, health and safety supervision, manual handling, the principles and practice of risk assessment.

Of course, more and more businesses are seeking training specifically designed to fulfil their particular needs and Hadlow is eminently successful in fulfilling this increasingly important demand.

Clients include EDF Energy, Leeds Castle, Down-to-Earth Tree Services, the London Golf Club, BIFFA, KCC Landscape Services, various district councils and an increasing number of small businesses.

The college also offers a free and comprehensive training needs analysis that guides businesses through an analysis of the training and development that will benefit the workforce.

Advice and information is just a telephone call away. Contact Fran Gallwey at the Hadlow College Business and Community Development Unit: 01732 853168.

Farm diversification may affect tax relief

WHILE financial markets are swinging wildly with 10 per cent variations within less days, down on the farm things are looking very different.

Average capital values are reported as having risen 34 per cent last year.

Commodity prices have surged ahead and continuing Inheritance Tax (IHT) favoured treatment has encouraged farmers to retain land.

The beginning of 2008 saw the arrival of the latest Rural Development Plan for England with £60 million of funding for farmer controlled businesses to encourage diversification into new enterprises.

The areas of diversification being encouraged include renewable energy, rural tourism and manufacturing and service enterprises.

However, can diversification jeopardise the favoured IHT treatment?

Agricultural property relief gives 100 per cent IHT relief for qualifying property but, if redundant farm buildings are converted to say, let commercial units, then those are most unlikely to qualify for this relief.

Business property relief gives 100 per cent IHT relief for assets employed in a business carried on for profit provided it is not an investment business.

Recent case law shows that the business has to be looked at in the round: do let assets such as cottages or commercial units make it an investment business rather than the original farming one; what are the relative values of the let assets to the whole farm; what are the comparative profit contributions of the different elements; how is the owners/employees' time spent; how long has the business been going?

Given that for most farmers, handing the business on to the next generation is a powerful driver, when contemplating diversification IHT advice should be taken.

For further information please contact Peter Scott, Partner, Cripps Harries Hall LLP 01892 506292.

Our agriculture and estates team has been working with farmers and landowners for many years.
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When disaster strikes there's an ideal solution

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO firms – one from Kent – have agreed to be ready to work together at a moment's notice as an emergency taskforce if a disaster happens anywhere in the country.

Maidstone-based The Ideal Group is set to join forces with Edifice Management of Hull to provide a full recovery service for any crises and emergency projects which crop up.

This is good news for organisations facing the disaster of flood, fire or other damage, and provides a winning combination of a leading emergency response team, with highly-sophisticated drying and cleaning equipment, together with experts in project management.

When disaster strikes, speed of response can be crucial in keeping disruption, damage and down-time to a minimum. This partnership will be ready to form up and go when necessary to meet the need.

They first worked together at the 1600-pupil Sydney Smith School in Hull when flood waters created extensive damage last July. Many feared the school would not be in a fit state to open its doors for the new term in September but, in the event, it was one of the few large schools in the area able to open on time.

Ideal was formed in 2001 by Javid Ibrahim and Karen Pedley and now has 20 staff. Apart from the head office in Maidstone it has offices in Dartford, East Ham and Poplar.

Edifice was formed in April last year under the leadership of Jason Goldsmith and its high-profile projects have included ensuring the Express Holiday Inn project (the tallest building in Hull City Centre) came in on time and in budget.

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Solicitors standards Lexcel

A CANTERBURY law firm has become the first in the country to achieve new Law Society quality standard.

Fairweathers in Station Road West has become the first to achieve the society's latest version of the practice quality standard called 'Lexcel'. The standard is only awarded to solicitors who meet the highest standards of customer care and the firm was required to undergo a rigourous independent assessment.

Andrew Holroyd, president of the Law Society, said "Fairweathers has become the first to be awarded accreditation against Lexcel version 4. Currently it is not mandatory to be assessed against the new standard. This is a clear sign that the practice is committed to providing client service excellence, managing risk and enhancing their business management."

Darren Tamplin, partner at Fairweathers said the firm was "extremely proud" and added that less than 10 per cent of all law firms are Lexcel accredited – against other previous versions. The firm has specialist solicitors practising in the areas of medical negligence claims, personal injury, family law and employment disputes.

PARTNERS: Darren Tamplin (left) and Nick Fairweather (right) of Fairweathers

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Forum to tackle ways of economic survival

TOP bosses have a chance to get together and also meet experts to discuss how companies can survive the current economic uncertainty.

The Kent branch of the Institute of Directors (IOD), is staging its next Financial Forum, where people can share ideas and swap tips, on May 19.

Organised by Kent accountancy firm Reeves+Neylan and Clydesdale Bank, both sponsors of Kent IOD, the events are targeted at managing directors, finance directors and financial controllers. The idea follows on from the IOD's successful Marketing and Human Resources Forum, which has proved very popular.

The forums, limited to 20 places, take place at Clydesdale Bank's offices at Turkey Mill, Ashford Road, Maidstone.

Tickets cost £15 for IOD members and £25 for non-members. Refreshments will be available and to book tickets call 01732 849570 or e-mail iod.kent@iod.com.

Budget is fuel for concern for SMEs

GOVERNMENT commitment to helping small firms switch to environmentally friendly fuels is being questioned by the Forum of Private Business (FPB) following an announcement in Budget that it is to remove a tax incentive for investing in 'green' biofuels.

The 20p per litre government fuel duty incentive for firms that invest in bioethanol and biodiesel is being withdrawn from spring 2010, saving the treasury an estimated £550 million.

In its place, the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) will set a minimum legal threshold that, by 2010, at least five per cent of all fuel sold in the UK will have to be made from material from sustainable sources. Suppliers who fail to meet their targets will be fined.

Phil Orford, FPB's chief executive, said: "This will not only force businesses to comply with yet more red tape, but also remove any financial benefits for 'going green'. This is yet another long term issue that is being addressed by short-term cost-saving policies."

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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.49% **L:** 90% **U:** 01/04/2010
OD: £2,500 ARRANGEMENT

BRISTOL & WEST
RT: FIXED **R%** 5.79% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/05/2011
OD £1,000 ARRANGEMENT

CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY
RT FIXED **R%:** 5.84% **L:** 90% **U:** 01/04/2010
OD: £1,500 ARRANGEMENT

ABBEY
RT FIXED **R%:** 5.94% **L:** 90% **U:** 02/07/2013
OD: £999 ARRANGEMENT

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RT: FIXED **R%** 5.95% **L:** 90% **U:** 01/07/2011
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ABBEY
RT: VARIABLE **R%:** 7.34% **L:** 100% **U:** N/A
OD: No arrangement fee but higher lending charge applies

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Second merger sees solicitors continue growth

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

BROMLEY-based solicitors firm Judge & Priestley is set to continue on the takeover trail after merging with its second local law firm in three years.

It is taking over Wallis & Co, headed by Madelaine Henwood and Paul Stevens, based nearby in West Street.

Both Ms Henwood and Paul Stevens will be joining Judge & Priestley as members of the limited liability partnership – an entity of which the firm was one of the first in the region to become in 2005.

The firm said that the move to a LLP has "installed a more corporate business structure to the firm".

It is the firm's second merger after taking over local-based Clarke Nurse in 2005, and it said: "We continue to consider ways to develop the practice in the expectation of the changes that will be brought about by the Legal Services Act 2007."

Clarke Nurse was based in Orpington and that merger has resulted in the successful growth of J&P's property team and the addition of a housing association team to its property development department.

Expand

A J&P spokeswoman said that the merger with Wallis & Co is going ahead because it is a well known local firm, with particular expertise in conveyancing, litigation and wills and probate.

"We are always aiming to expand and develop our teams and so Wallis & Co is a natural fit with our expanding litigation, private client and property teams. It has been going since 1951 and has a loyal client base who will benefit post merger from a wider variety of legal services."

J&P traces its history back to 1889 when Eugene Judge joined forces with Horace Priestley in London.

Stop thieves converting your car into cash

THE theft of catalytic converters is now well and truly established and a growing part of the crime scene. Why? Because the catalyst – which makes a "cat" work – can cost thousands of pounds per ounce. It is typically made up of three precious metals – platinum, palladium and rhodium.

Although only very small amounts of these metals are used, the value of these metals has risen exponentially in the past two years, making them a valuable target for thieves.

Crime

Now the Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (ACPO) has teamed up with the British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) to fight the crime.

Andrew Miller, manager of risk control surveyors at Allianz Insurance Plc said: "All thieves have to do is spend a short time amongst vehicles on a forecourt, loosening some bolts and a short while later, the thieves can be driving away with a dozen or so catalytic converters."

Simon Careless, managing director of commercial insurance brokers Francis Townsend and Hayward, said: "We are advising our customers to take measures towards preventing this crime by parking in garages and on secure drives. Many of our commercial fleet customers are taking this warning as an opportunity to secure car parks with CCTV."

Support construction by sponsoring awards

ERITH businesses are being invited to support local construction apprentices by sponsoring the annual awards ceremony at The National Construction College South.

The awards aim to recognise the successes and achievements of the college's many apprentices across all disciplines including roofing and scaffolding.

The award ceremony is one of four taking place around the country this summer and will feature former world champion boxer, Barry McGuigan MBE as guest speaker.

Companies are being offered a variety of sponsorship opportunities including overall sponsorship of the college's four award ceremonies, sponsorship of one skill area, ranging from health and safety to general construction or sponsorship of one award of choice.

The packages offer an array of benefits including awareness raising, networking opportunities and associated PR and advertising opportunities.

Contact the college's events department on 01485 577785.

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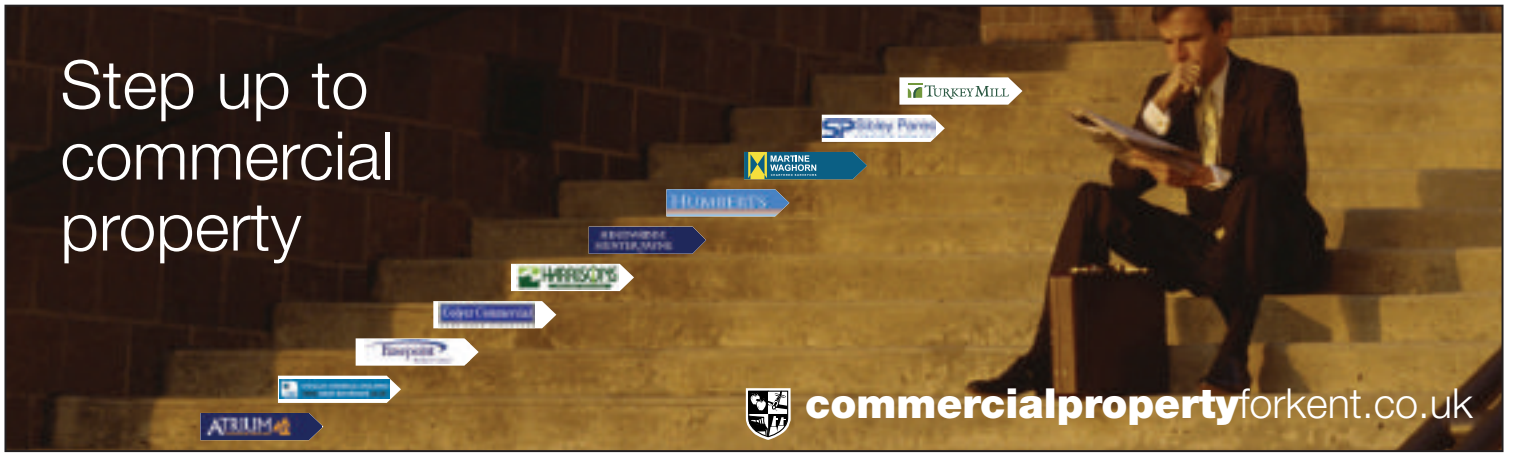

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Baker Tilly firm employs a new top accountant

APPOINTED: Kevin Hall

LEADING accountant and business adviser, Baker Tilly has appointed Kevin Hall as a director within the southern region tax investigation team. He is based in Bromley.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Hall spent 20 years at HMRC and more recently two-and-a-half years at PwC. He will be working as part of the regional tax investigations team headed by partner, Mike Down.

Commenting on his appointment, Adrian Hollands, office managing partner of Bromley says: "We are delighted to welcome Kevin to Baker Tilly. Tax investigation is an ever growing part of our business, particularly with HMRC conducting more and more investigations into tax evasion. We are aiming to increase the amount of work we win in this field both in the south as well as in Central London. In addition we will be expanding the team operating from Kent."

Reliance Mutual take on board an executive

SEAMUS Creedon has joined Tunbridge Wells-based Reliance Mutual Insurance Society Limited (Reliance Mutual) as a non-executive director.

Mr Creedon, an actuary and management consultant was until recently a partner at KPMG, where he led the UK actuarial practice from 2000-2003 and was the deputy leader globally. More recently he has been advising the Irish Government on competition issues in their health insurance market.

Prior to his time at KPMG, Mr Creedon had been chief Executive of Bank of Ireland's Life Assurance business, and Head of Corporate Development across Europe. Before that he was Actuary and Chief Executive Ireland for Abbey Life.

He has a high profile in professional circles as well, being a member of the Council of the Institute of Actuaries, and Chair of the Solvency II Life Working Group of the European actuarial profession. He qualified as an actuary in 1976.

Mark Goodale, Reliance Mutual's Chief Executive said: "Seamus will be a tremendous additional sounding board for our executive management team as we take the business to the next chapter in its history."

Solicitor joins client team at Furley Page

NEW: Thara Thangavel

A YOUNG solicitor who practises in private client work has been appointed by leading south east law firm Furley Page.

Thara Thangavel, 25, joins the firm's private client team, based in Canterbury, whose reputation for excellence in the community has been established over years of advising generations of local families.

Ms Thangavel, of St Margaret's Bay, Dover, will advise clients on a range of issues including wills, probate, trusts, estate administration, charity administration and residential conveyancing.

She said: "Private client work revolves around important phases in people's lives such as moving home, making a will and dealing with probate matters. I look forward to building trusted relationships with Furley Page's clients and helping to simplify any complexities for them."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lydd airport go on recruitment drive

A SHARP increase in business at London Ashford Airport (LAA) at Lydd has sparked a recruitment drive to meet rising demand.

Staffing levels at the Romney Marsh airport have gone up across the board, including ground operations, Air Traffic Control, catering, customer services and the airport's Rescue and Fire Fighting Service.

LAA's new recruits include 19-year-old Ben Hart, from Lydd, who joins the airport as Air Traffic Assistant; and trainee firefighters Dean Longhurst, 20, from Dover, and 24-year-old Douglas Thwaites, from Ashford.

New legal recruits

BROADSTAIRS-based lawyers Bell Dening has two new recruits – Robert Trickey and Isabel Staunton – previously partners at local firm Goldcrest Conveyancing, which is no longer trading (although Goldcrest Estate Agency continues to trade).

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Confident Conway aims for GP2 title

Driver says new Trident car and F1 test experience will give him edge in season opener at Barcelona

By TOM HOWARD

KENT Formula One hopeful Mike Conway believes he has the right ingredients to win a title as he prepares for the GP2 season opener at Barcelona next week.

The Sevenoaks racer had a busy close season preparing for his second year in the Formula One feeder series.

During the winter, Conway left the Super Nova team to join Italian-based Trident Racing for 2008, and believes the opportunity could propel him to the title where he would follow in the footsteps of Formula One drivers Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton.

Conway said: "The first time I tested with the team I knew it was the one for me. Winter testing has gone really well.

"We have done an awful lot of miles and the guys have worked flat out to improve the new car. It is a step forward from last year. It has better aerodynamics and we think it is about half a second to a full second faster on some circuits."

The Circuit De Catalunya in Barcelona was not a happy hunting ground last year, as Conway finished both races outside of the top 10. However, this season the Kent driver is hoping a consistent run of points finishes will put him in the mix for this year's drivers' title.

He said: "We had some bad luck last year, but experience will be vital this season and I expect to finish in the points in the majority of the meetings. With the Trident team we have all the right ingredients to win the title. I can't wait to get behind the wheel and have been counting down the days until the first race meeting."

During the winter, Conway became part of Honda F1's young driver programme. He tested the 2008 machine at Barcelona and is hoping to use that experience on car set-up for Sundays' race.

Check out all the latest sport news online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Bromley chief puts club on the market

BROMLEY owner Jeremy Dolke has put the club up for sale as he can no longer provide the investment needed to progress.

The Lilywhites, who are enjoying their first season in the Blue Square South, have come a long way in a short space of time.

FOR SALE: Jeremy Dolke says Bromley must be sold if club is to reach its full potential

However, the club had a turbulent first year in the league after losing their manager Mark Goldberg in December and now the club has been put up for sale by Dolke.

He told Kent on Sunday: "I put the club up for sale because we have been in the Conference South for a year now and I know what this league is like being an ex-player.

"If we want to be a club with aspirations of getting out of this division, then we will need more investment.

"Bromley have great facilities and squad but they need more investment to progress. It is a serious business now which has caused me to step down and put the club up for sale."

The news was a surprise for manager Simon Osborn, who was only appointed in January.

He said: "When I first heard the news about the club going up for sale it was a shock, especially with all the hard work Jeremy has put into the club. However, I have just got to concentrate on my job here and like they say, life goes on.

"It has not affected the players, they have just been focusing on winning the last remaining fixtures and finishing as high as we can."

Dolke will only leave the club once a buyer has been found.

Shakey hoping for win to put end to the 'hype'

THE FASTEST track in the country will host the opening round of the British Superbike Championship this weekend and Sheppey racer Shane 'Shakey' Byrne is hoping to end all the hype with a win.

The Airwaves Ducati rider was left disappointed and frustrated after three inches of snow fell at Brands Hatch earlier in the month, causing the first meeting of the season to be cancelled.

However, after claiming pole position and being fastest in all sessions at the Kent circuit, Shakey is feeling confident.

He said: "It was such a blow to have the race at Brands Hatch cancelled especially after performing so well in practice and qualifying.

"The last race was back in August and I am itching to get back on the bike and finally answer a few questions and end all the hype.

"If we had raced at Brands Hatch we could be talking about something else – like me being in the top three in the championship. The cancellation also affects you mentally as a rider because you put yourself through routines, only to be told that the race is off."

This weekend at Thruxton in Hampshire, the superbikes will reach speeds of more than 200mph and the abrasive surface will test a rider's skill to preserve their tyres.

Byrne's team mate, Ashford born Leon Camier, is hoping for a podium finish and feels the abandonment at Brands Hatch has helped his injured shoulder recover.

Camier said: "I do feel a lot better, but I wouldn't say I was 100 per cent fit but I am close. I am a big fan of this track after scoring a podium here last year.

"I believe I have a real shout for a podium and I feel I have a few tricks up my sleeve to keep the tyres in good shape."

Kent will also be represented by Maidstone rider Scott Smart on the new improved Hawk Kawasaki.

Picture: AIRWAVES DUCATI

CONFIDENT: Shane Byrne wants to end all the hype with a victory at Thruxton

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Picture: EMPICS

IN THE FRAME: Charlton's Matt Holland

It's wide open at Addicks awards

THE great and the good from Charlton will be at The Valley this evening when the supporters' player of the year is announced.

A day after taking on Queens Park Rangers in a crucial London derby, Alan Pardew and all the first-team management and players will be in SE7 for the annual end-of-term event.

It's been an eventful season for everyone with Addicks' connections and the fact there is no frontrunner for the prestigious award makes the evening even more appetising.

Leading candidates to succeed Scott Carson on the honours board are spread across the pitch.

Tireless skipper Matt Holland and free-scoring Chinese star Zheng Zhi have made contrasting contributions from midfield, while between the posts Nicky Weaver has shown a safe pair of hands all campaign.

Hard-working striker Chris Iwelumo and no-nonsense central defender Paddy McCarthy are also in the running at the event that will also see the young player of the year crowned.

Picture: MARTIN COYD

UP FOR THE CUP: Medway Dragons' youngsters with the Challenge Cup

Dragons get their hands on the cup

THE oldest trophy in rugby paid a rare visit to Kent this week as the fledgling Medway Dragons pulled off a significant coup.

Rugby league's Carnegie Challenge Cup resumes this weekend, with Harlequins hosting the pick of the games.

In recognition, the Super League side have the 112-year-old trophy for the preceding week and the London club decided to take it on a tour of the region, which took in Dartford-based Kent Ravens.

Although the Dragons were only established earlier this year, they have enjoyed an explosion of interest with 130 members and have forged close links with Quins.

Team manager Martin Coyd said: "The Challenge Cup is part of our sporting culture like the FA Cup or the Boat Race. To have it in our club is unbelievable – this kind of thing just doesn't happen."

Picture: ADY KERRY

'I just want it sorted'

Gills keeper calls on club to finalise new contract

By DAVID PRITCHARD

GILLINGHAM goalkeeper Simon Royce admits he is growing increasingly concerned about whether he will be given a new contract.

Manager Mark Stimson has repeatedly made it clear he wants to keep the stopper, who is likely to win the player of the season award at the club's end of season dinner next week.

Royce says terms were verbally agreed more than a month ago on a deal to keep him at the club until next summer, but has not heard anything since.

His anxieties have been heightened by a persistent ankle injury which has left him sidelined for the last month. The problem has reduced the 36-year-old to a frustrated spectator as he has missed vital games in Gills' struggle for League One survival.

Even if the club were relegated, Royce insists he would be happy to stay.

He told Kent on Sunday: "The contract has been agreed and I would sign it tomorrow if I could. It was agreed five or six weeks ago, but the chairman hasn't been around.

"It's another year, so on my part I'm quite willing and even if we do get relegated I want to stay and look forward to a promotion.

"The manager has said 'don't panic it's all in hand' but when nothing is signed a verbal agreement isn't worth anything these days. Obviously, because it's been offered, I would like to think that would be upheld, but in the present climate you don't know.

Worried

"It's been so long, I have got injured and with our position you do think about it. If it does go on any longer I will get worried because I have a family and things to pay. My contract is until the end of May and after that I stop getting paid, I just want it sorted."

The former Southend and Leicester goalkeeper believes he still has two years left before hanging up his boots, but has not given up on returning to the first team before the end of the season.

He said: "It probably helps that I'm much more experienced. I know my own body and I have had major injuries before. If I can come back from that then I will come back from a twisted ankle.

"My main concern at the moment is getting fit and playing at least one game before the end of the season. At the moment I'm not sure what will happen."

Royce had stayed virtually injury-free before suffering an injury on the training ground, playing 36 games for the club after arriving last summer.

Although the team have one of the worst defensive records in League One, he has produced consistently high standards all season to make him a fans' favourite.

• GILLINGHAM have announced that Mark Jones will take over as the club's chief executive to ensure chairman Paul Scally can dedicate more time to attracting more investment to the Gills.

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Grant career and Olympic dream over

THE END: Injury has forced Helen Grant to retire from competitive hockey at just 28

A SERIOUS knee injury has forced Helen Grant to prematurely retire from hockey at 28 – just months before she hoped to crown her career with a first appearance at the Olympics.

The Canterbury and England forward ruptured her anterior cruciate ligament in a school game 11 years ago and has suffered problems ever since.

Despite the injury, Grant has enjoyed a successful career in club and international hockey. She made more than 100 appearances for England, playing at two World Cups and won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester six years ago – her personal highlight.

But for Grant, one ambition will now remain unfulfilled.

She told Kent on Sunday: "It was a dream to go to the Olympics and it's always going to be on my CV 'Olympics: none' which really hurts. Last summer I missed the European Cup where we qualified and that's when the signs were on the wall.

"I almost announced my retirement then, but being Olympic year I wanted to be sure and give myself as much of an opportunity to make it."

In a bid to make the squad for Beijing, Grant joined Canterbury midway through last season and was an instant success. She scored six goals in seven games to help an inexperienced side to a top half finish.

But the agony she suffered from her knee proved too great to complete a comeback at the highest level.

In the original injury she also tore the meniscus, which acts as a shock absorber. In surgery a significant amount was removed and the lack of it has caused lasting damage to the bones in her knee.

She has undergone several cortisone injections to help but the pain has increased and she has needed painkillers to help get through games.

She said: "It keeps me up at night, I'm in tears and I wake up in the morning thinking 'how is it going to be today?' It affects everything, I can't go out for walks with family or wear high heels when I go out.

"I have got to look at the long term, the doctors have told me I will need a knee replacement sooner rather than later – before I'm 40. It's all a lot to take in.

"There comes a point where you think about the rest of your life. It's not like I'm being paid a lot of money to play hockey, I have a job to consider."

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Youngsters come through for Kent

Academy trio eager for a chance at big time

By GLENN PEARSON

WHILE Kent appear to have the strongest squad in years, three academy youngsters are waiting for their chance to shine in first-class cricket.

Matt Coles, James Iles and Charlie Hemphrey were all given an opportunity to show what they can do during pre-season and they didn't disappoint.

All three took wickets in pre-season games and in Coles' case, it was enough to net him 12th man duties for Kent's opening county championship game against Nottinghamshire.

The 18-year-old, who now plays his cricket with former Kent star Min Patel at Hartley, is something of a success story.

Accident

He was asked to bowl against the club's first team last season and on the back of his performance was offered an academy contract with the club.

Since then, a nasty car accident just before Christmas left him with a number of injuries and academy staff feared he would not be back to play this season.

However, a miraculous recovery saw the right-arm fast bowler back and ready for the season and he was named in a friendly against Surrey, where he picked up the scalps of Jonathan Batty, Ali Brown and West Indian Pedro Collins.

Academy director Phil Relf is delighted with his progress and thinks he would grab an opportunity to play in the first team with both hands.

He said: "He has been with us a year now and he has done really well.

"He is quite an exciting prospect and a real workhorse. To have made that recovery from that injury is a major thing.

"We are looking forward to having him round a quite a bit as there are high hopes for him. The fact he is playing this season is a miracle and a real bonus for us."

MIRACULOUS RECOVERY: Matt Coles was on 12th man duty for Kent's championship game with Nottinghamshire Picture: ADY KERRY

James Iles is a medium fast bowler plying his trade at Lordswood Cricket Club. He became the youngest player to play for the club, aged 16, when he featured in a game against Cambridge University two years ago.

Off-spinner Charlie Hemphrey is in a position where he is back-up to the club's only other spinner, James Tredwell.

If Tredwell were to be called up for England this summer, or picks up an injury, the 18-year-old could be thrown in at the deep end.

Relf said: "I think I would be confident if he were to be called in to the first team.

"His bowling has come on a heck of a lot and he has become a lot more aware of his own game. I know from pre-season a lot of the guys were impressed with how he bowled against some top-class batters. He is probably in the right place at the right time, as we are not overwhelmed with spinners. He has been working a lot with James Tredwell and they get on well."

The trio could form part of the team that takes on the touring New Zealand Test side at the end of the month, which would give them an opportunity to mix with professional players, something Relf is keen for them to experience.

He said: "[Captain] Rob Key has been really encouraging and supportive of them, but at the same time pretty hard, letting them know that first-class cricket is demanding. It is just really nice to have a couple of home-grown lads to back up what we have got at the club."

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CHANCE TO SHINE: Charlotte Edwards

Coaching call for Edwards

KENT cricketer Charlotte Edwards has been offered a coaching contract by The Cricket Foundation.

Edwards, who is also captain of the England team, has been offered the contract which will see her take up coaching and ambassadorial roles within Cricket Foundation's Chance to Shine programme.

Seven other players from the national team have also been offered contracts, including Edwards' county team-mate, Lydia Greenway.

The foundation deals offer the players 25 hours coaching a week and last for eight months of the year.

Wasim Khan, operations director for Chance to Shine, said: "We are delighted to have secured the coaching services of the England women cricketers, who will be a real asset to the Chance to shine programme.

"Last year saw 43,000 girls participating in the scheme and with the involvement of the England Women, we'll have every opportunity to build on this success."

The women will deliver coaching sessions within Chance to Shine schools, assist in developing girls' sections at clubs and support local competition structures.

The coaching contracts will support the players financially, as well as providing them with enough time to train and concentrate on their playing careers.

Fleet so close to FA Trophy they can feel it

EBBSFLEET United are expecting to play in front of a crowd of more than 30,000 when they make their first ever appearance at Wembley on May 10.

On Monday, the Gravesend club's officials, including manager Liam Daish and captain Paul McCarthy, visited the stadium to familiarise themselves with the surroundings for the final.

The club have already sold their first allocation of 15,000 tickets for the FA Trophy final and hope to sell around 25,000 for the game. Club secretary Roly Edwards finds it hard to put into words just what making to Wembley means for a club like Ebbsfleet.

He told Kent on Sunday: "It is fantastic to be at Wembley and the place is an amazing stadium.

"I am really looking forward to it, but I don't want it to go too quickly – I want the day to last. It's history making for the club and what teams strive to achieve."

Edwards also hopes that all of Kent's football fraternity will come and support the team, as they are the first club in the county to reach a final at Wembley since Tommy Sampson's Deal Town won the FA Vase in 2000.

He said: "Ticket sales are going well and we have sold our first 15,000 allocation of tickets and I believe we have now sold around 18,000. Hopefully we can go on from that and have a great support at Wembley from fans across Kent."

The Fleet are now no longer in the race for a play-off place after Thursday night's 1-1 draw with Droylsden.

They are 11 points behind with just three games to go, but Daish will now be hoping none of his big players pick up injuries or suspensions that would rule them out the final.

Strikers Chukki Eribenne and John Akinde are back to full fitness and will want to impress Daish, while James Smith made his return this week and McCarthy should make an appearance before the end of the season.

• ***Tickets for the final can be purchased from the Ebbsfleet United's ticket office on 01474 533796.***

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

EXCITEMENT BUILDING: Ebbsfleet United officials visited Wembley ahead of the final on May 10

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IN MAHMOOD FOR TROPHIES

All-rounder tells Kent on Sunday why he said no to lucrative Indian Twenty20 series to join county instead

Picture: ADY KERRY

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT'S new signing Azhar Mahmood has revealed he turned down an opportunity to play in a Twenty20 world series tournament to fulfil his commitment to the county.

Mahmood's future at Kent was hanging in the balance after his participation in the Indian Cricket League – a competition the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) labelled an 'unauthorised event.'

The 32-year-old signed for Kent on November 22, but due to the ECB's stance on the Indian competition, which saw them change their regulations, Mahmood was left sweating as to whether his registration would be accepted.

Lucrative

Now the former Pakistani all-rounder, who has now joined up with the club, told Kent on Sunday he turned down a lucrative offer to stay on in India and play in a 20s World Series Tournament for ICL Pakistan.

It would have seen him play in a side pitting the best Pakistanis and Indians from the ICL against a 'best of the rest' side, but would have meant missing the opening game of the championship and could have gone against him being allowed to play this season.

He told Kent on Sunday: "I was worried the ECB might have a problem with the ICL Pakistan competition and I didn't want to take any risk because I had a commitment with the club. I didn't want to let them down at any stage so that is why I said I am not going to play in this tournament and I will come back."

Despite the controversy around the tournament, it was a worthwhile experience for Mahmood and he hopes to take part again next year.

He said: "I signed a three-year deal with the ICL before I signed for Kent and they were happy with me to go there and play because ICL was not clashing with the county season and there was no problem.

"It is an excellent competition and what is great to see is local Indian players perform together with international players.

"It was a good feeling playing for the ICL and you could see in the tournament it was tough. It is also good for people ending their career because there is a chance to earn money as the life of a cricketer is very short, you play up to the age of about 35 and then they have to retire, so it is one way of making money."

The way the multi-million pound Indian Premier League and the ICL has changed the face of the sport is "good for cricket" according to Mahmood as long as it doesn't clash with the county season.

He said: "Why are people so against it? People are able to go and play in Australia and South Africa, so why not India? It is not fair on the players, as the home boards are stopping people from earning."

Mahmood is a welcome addition to the Kent line-up, and will no doubt bolster the batting department as well as offer something different with the ball.

Having already settled at the club, he is looking forward to competing for silverware on all fronts this season.

He said: "I spent six years with Surrey and it was time to move and I really like Kent having played against them before. It is a nice little town and a nice club so that is why I moved to Kent.

"I was talking to Rob Key last year and he was interested and I didn't want to go up north because I am still living in Surrey. There are a nice bunch of guys here.

"We have good players and are capable of doing well this season. We have a really good one-day side and I believe we can have equally as good a side in the four day game.

"It is a really relaxed dressing room and that is what you want when you come into a new place.

"Kent is not as big a club as Surrey but after coming here, I have been really looked after. I have only been here for about a week but already people are making me feel welcome, it is remarkable."

IF YOU can't get to the St Lawrence ground to watch Kent play Essex in their opening fixture of the Friends Provident Trophy on Sunday, you don't have to miss a thing.

KOS Media, the publishers of Kent on Sunday and the Kentish Saturday Observer, will be providing live over-by-over updates from Canterbury so you can keep up with the county's fortunes in the one-day competition.

Visit www.kentnews.co.uk from 11am to get the team line-ups and news from the ground.

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